

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS

2023 Interim

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December 13, 2023



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Bill Ferguson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Co-Chair
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Dear President Ferguson, Speaker Jones, and Members:

As co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, we would like to give you an update on our committee's work this year. During the 2023 interim, the joint committee held a briefing on federal/congressional issues relevant to the states and undertook its annual review of a portion of the interstate compacts of which Maryland is a member. These activities are summarized below.

November 1 Briefing with the National Conference of State Legislatures

The joint committee held a briefing on November 1 with policy updates from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Governor's Federal Relations Office on federal/congressional issues relevant to the states and to Maryland. Specific topics addressed by NCSL during the briefing included:

- federal fiscal 2024 appropriations;
- reauthorization of the federal farm bill and related issues, including an update on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children;
- federal banking reform efforts related to the legal cannabis industry through the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act and Secure and Fair Enforcement Regulation Banking Act;
- Medicaid program eligibility and enrollment following the termination of the Medicaid continuous enrollment condition as part of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency;
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' proposed new minimum nursing home standards;
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds program changes; and
- a summary of notable cases in the U.S. Supreme Court's current term.

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In addition, Matthew Verghese, Director of Federal Relations for the Governor's Office, provided a summary of the Governor's Federal Relations Office's work and the efforts to save the hostages kidnapped from Israel and secure federal funding for the State and its local governments.

Annual Interstate Compact Review

The joint committee conducts an annual review of Maryland's membership in various interstate compacts (covering all compacts over a four-year cycle) by sending questionnaires to the State agencies involved with each of the compacts to assess if Maryland's continued membership serves the interests of the State and whether any legislative changes are needed.

The compacts up for review this year were: (1) the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact; (2) the Nurse Licensure Compact; (3) the Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; (4) the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact; (5) the Education Commission of the States; (6) the Interstate Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel; (7) the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance; (8) the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children; (9) the Interstate Library Compact; (10) the Interstate Compact on Mental Health; and (11) the Southern Regional Education Board.

Questionnaire responses have been submitted for 9 of the 11 compacts (questionnaires for the Interstate Compact on Mental Health and the Southern Regional Education Board are still outstanding), and for each of those 9 compacts, the agencies recommend that the State continue its membership in the compacts. For 2 of the compacts, the agencies identified new compacts that are available for the State to consider moving toward: (1) in the case of the Interstate Agreement on Qualifications for Educational Personnel, a new compact entitled the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact has been developed, which is expected to allow for increased teacher mobility in comparison to the system under the current interstate agreement and (2) in the case of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, a new Interstate Compact *for* the Placement of Children was finalized in 2005 and has been enacted by 16 states, with enactment in 35 states needed in order for the new compact to take effect.

Sincerely,



Jill P. Carter
Senate Chair



Lily Qi
House Chair

JPC:LQ/SDK:SMQ/km

cc: Sally Robb
Jeremy Baker
Victoria L. Gruber
Ryan Bishop