

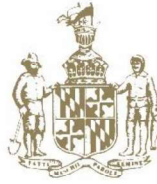
# **JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS**

2024 Interim

State Government Article, Section 2-906(b)

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS**

December 13, 2024



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS

December 13, 2024

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. The joint committee did not hold briefings during the 2024 interim but did undertake its annual review of a portion of the interstate compacts of which Maryland is a member.

### **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 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact; (2) the Interstate Compact on Mental Health; (3) the Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact; (4) the Jennings Randolph Lake Project Compact; (5) the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision; (6) the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ); (7) the Emergency Management Assistance Compact; (8) the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact; (9) the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB); (10) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact; and (11) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

Questionnaire responses have been submitted for all 11 compacts up for review this interim. For each of the 11 compacts, the agencies recommend that the State continue its membership in the compacts and have not suggested legislative changes. However, information provided in two of the questionnaires have prompted additional action:

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- ***Interstate Compact for Juveniles*** – In the Department of Juvenile Services' questionnaire responses for ICJ, the department identified concerns about (1) the ongoing vacancy in the judicial position on the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision and (2) incidents of the Maryland Juvenile Court releasing confirmed and suspected victims of sex trafficking to individuals who had not been properly vetted through ICJ. We are requesting additional information from the department to see if the joint committee can assist in addressing those concerns.
- ***Southern Regional Education Board*** – The Maryland Higher Education Commission is responsible for managing the State's involvement in SREB, and the State receives significant benefit from SREB relating to higher education. SREB, however, also offers data and support to policymakers and educators in the region relating to preK-12 education and we plan to reach out to the State Superintendent of Schools to determine whether the State could benefit from greater use of those resources.

Sincerely,



Jill P. Carter  
Senate Chair



Lily Qi  
House Chair

JPC:LQ/BV:YR/km

cc: Sally Robb  
Matthew Jackson  
Victoria L. Gruber  
Ryan Bishop