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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
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Testimony for Senate Bill 544
Charter and Code Home Rule Counties - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 23, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 544 - Charter and Code Home Rule Counties - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions.

As a request from Dorchester County, Senate Bill 544 authorizes charter and home rule counties to enter into a lease that is not renewable and has a term of five years or less, without giving notice. Currently, it is required that a notice shall be published for three successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County.

The County has concerns about the current notice publication process, as it is lengthy and costly. In addition, there are concerns about the potential loss of tenants due to the current process. Dorchester County has stated these types of leases will still be placed on an open session agenda for the Council's review and consideration, giving the public the opportunity to provide comment.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 544.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt