

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 535 (Delegate Schisler)
Ways and Means

Referred to Budget and Taxation

Dorchester County and Talbot County - Property Tax Credit -
Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc.

This amended bill authorizes the governing body of Dorchester or Talbot County, or a municipality in either county, to grant a property tax credit against county or municipal property taxes imposed on certain property owned by the Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc. Any property used solely for the environmental education of the public, for maintenance of a natural area for public use, or as a wildlife sanctuary could be eligible for a credit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County revenues could decrease by \$60 and Talbot County revenues could decrease by \$4,400 beginning in FY 1998 and in future years. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect for the Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc. as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Revenues: The Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc. owns property in both Dorchester and Talbot counties. The society owns two properties in Dorchester County that are assessed at \$2,700 and five properties in Talbot County that are assessed at \$318,790. Based on Dorchester County's current tax rate of \$2.21 per \$100 of assessed value, granting the tax credit authorized by this bill would decrease annual revenues for Dorchester County by approximately \$60. Based on Talbot County's current tax rate of \$1.39 per \$100 of assessed value, granting this tax credit would decrease revenues for the county by approximately

\$4,400 in fiscal 1998 and future years.

A tax credit for the personal property of the Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc. located in Talbot County would not affect county revenues because Talbot County does not impose a personal property tax.

Small Business Effect: If both Dorchester and Talbot counties granted the tax credit authorized by this bill, the Chesapeake Audubon Society, Inc. would save approximately \$4,460 beginning in fiscal 1998.

Information Sources: Department of Assessments and Taxation, Dorchester County, Wicomico County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 1997

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