

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 797

(Senator Mautz)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions

This bill authorizes Dorchester County to enter into a lease of county property without giving notice, as specified, if the lease has a term of five years or less.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County advertising expenditures may decrease beginning in FY 2026; however, any impact is likely to be minimal. Dorchester County revenues are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Before a county disposes, grants, or leases county property, the county is required to publish notice of the action once a week for three consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The notice must include the terms and the compensation to be received and give opportunity for objections. A county may grant an easement for a public utility without giving notice.

Local Fiscal Effect: Dorchester County expenditures for advertising public notices may decrease beginning in fiscal 2026. Dorchester County advises that the advertisement cost for each notice is approximately \$200.

Dorchester County also advises that the removal of the three-week published notice requirement under the bill could potentially result in the county leasing out certain county properties more quickly.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 810 and HB 596 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: HB 563 (Dorchester County Delegation) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2025
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