

# **SB811 Amendment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: INFO



HB0594/153024/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

29 FEB 24  
11:34:36

BY: Delegate Hutchinson  
(To be offered in the Health and Government Operations  
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 594  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “Notice” insert “in Dorchester County”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through “circumstances;” in line 7 and substitute “establishing certain requirements for the publication of certain notices in Dorchester County;”; and in line 8, after “notices” insert “in Dorchester County”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in lines 20 and 21, strike “**THAT IS OFFERED EITHER IN A PRINT FORMAT OR A DIGITAL FORMAT**”; and in lines 22 and 23, in each instance, strike the bracket.

On page 2, in lines 3 and 6, in each instance, strike the bracket; in the same lines, strike “**(2)**” and “**(3)**”, respectively; in lines 3 and 4, strike “**THROUGH THE PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT**”; strike in their entirety lines 8 and 9; in line 10, strike “**(II)**” and substitute “**(5)**”; and after line 19, insert:

**“(C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND FOR PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS OF THE STATE, IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, IF A LAW, RESOLUTION, OR COURT ORDER, JUDGMENT, OR DECREE REQUIRES THE COUNTY TO PUBLISH A LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE:**

**(1) ANY REQUIRED ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PRINT AND DIGITAL FORMAT;**

**(2) THE TIME PERIOD REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION STARTS ONCE THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE APPEARS IN PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT; AND**

**(3) IF THERE IS NO PRINT AND DIGITAL PUBLICATION THAT MEETS ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE MAY BE PLACED IN ANY DIGITAL PUBLICATION THAT CAN BE ACCESSED IN DORCHESTER COUNTY AND THAT REGULARLY CONTAINS LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY.”**

# **SB811 Letter of Support Dorchester Co. Senate Dele**

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: INFO

**JOHNNY MAUTZ**  
*Legislative District 37*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 402  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3590 • 301-858-3590  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590  
Johnny.Mautz@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT**  
**SB 811 Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice - Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in**  
**General Circulation - Digital Newspapers**

The Dorchester County Senate Delegation supports, as amended, SB811 Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice - Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation - Digital Newspapers.

I thank you for your committee's consideration of the bill and request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Mautz".

Senator Johnny Mautz  
District 37  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties

# **SB811 Letter of Support Dorchester County Council.**

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: INFO



# COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 26  
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613  
PHONE: (410) 228-1700  
FAX: (410) 228-9641

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT  
MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT  
ROB KRAMER, JR.  
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS  
RICKY C. TRAVERS



JEFF POWELL  
INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER  
MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Senator  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 811 Entitled “Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice-Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation-Digital Newspapers”**

Dear Senator Feldman, Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 811 entitled “Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice-Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation-Digital Newspapers” which will alter the meaning of “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” when referring to the publication of a certain legal advertisement or legal notice to include certain publications that are offered in a print format or a digital format under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the publication of legal advertisements and legal notices.

The Dorchester Banner and The Star Democrat are the only two news publications in Dorchester County which qualify under Section 1-113 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as a “newspaper of general circulation.” The Dorchester Banner only publishes and distributes a newspaper on Wednesdays. The Monday and Tuesday editions of The Star Democrat are online only. This news publication publishes and distributes a newspaper on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (which is labeled “Friday/Saturday”), and Sunday.

The County Council is concerned that if these publications move to an online format they will be unable to conduct business until legislative relief can be obtained, at the detriment of Dorchester County citizens. This is particularly troubling since due to COVID-19 the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was cut short. If such an event were to occur close to the same time as these news publications shift to online only, there may be a substantial delay.

Additionally, if the Dorchester Banner were to change its print edition publication date from Wednesday to any other day of the week, due to advertising requirements pursuant to the County’s Code, we will be unable to utilize this publication in print format or in an online format since that option is not currently available pursuant to State law.

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Senator  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
February 6, 2024  
Page 2

We ask that you look favorably upon Senate Bill 811. Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. Please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

George L. Pfeffer  
President

jln/dl

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Thomas S. Hutchinson, Delegate  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate



**MDDC Informational SB 811.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Snyder

Position: INFO



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | [rsnyder@mddcpres.com](mailto:rsnyder@mddcpres.com)

[www.mddcpres.com](http://www.mddcpres.com)

To: Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 6, 2024

**Re: SB 811 – INFORMATION ONLY**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as the Star Democrat and Dorchester Banner, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, MoCo 360, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association has worked diligently with the House and Senate sponsors on amendments to this legislation. This bill arises out of a concern that both of the Dorchester news publications, the Star Democrat, publishing in print 4 days each week AND the Dorchester Banner, publishing weekly, would cease print publication. Every jurisdiction in Maryland is served by an appropriate publication for public notice.

The agreed-upon amendments in the House, which has recently passed out of subcommittee, narrows the bill to notices placed by Dorchester County government itself, keeps notices in publications that have both a print and online version, allows the "clock" to begin running on the notice at first publication, whether that is in the print or digital version of the news media publication, and allows for online-only publication if there is no qualifying publication that publishes in print and online. In communications with Senate sponsor, we understand the intention is to conform the Senate bill to the House bil.

We believe firmly that public notices are most accessible, archiveable and independent when they are published in print newspapers.



**We believe a strong news media is  
central to a strong and open society.**

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