

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
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February 7, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Delegate
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: LOS – HB563 Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions

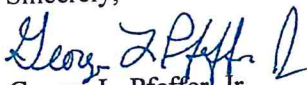
Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 564, entitled "Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions" for the purpose of exempting a lease of county property for a certain duration made by Dorchester County from certain notice requirements; and generally relating to notice requirements for leases of county property in Dorchester County.

House Bill 564 proposes amendments to §10-312(f) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland entitled "County property; housing projects; franchise; required notice," as it relates to leases. Under this Section, prior to the leasing of County property, a notice shall be published for three successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County. The notice shall include the terms and compensation to be received to provide the opportunity for objection. The County Council is concerned about this publication requirement due to the potential loss of a tenant due to the lengthy advertising process as well as the costs associated with advertising. Therefore, the County Council is seeking an amendment to allow Dorchester County to enter into a lease of County property without giving notice if the lease has a term of five (5) years or less. These types of leases will be placed on an open session meeting agenda for the County Council's review and consideration to provide the public with ample opportunity for comment. We urge you to look favorably upon this bill and support its passage. We urge you to look favorably upon this bill and support its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700.

Sincerely,


George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

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