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Health and Government Operations
Committee

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Public Health and
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Health Occupations and
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

HB703-Dorchester County-County Property Leases-Public Notice Exemptions

Government, Labor, and Elections

03/04/2026

What This Bill Does

HB0703 exempts Dorchester County from having to provide public notice to enter into a lease that lasts for 5 years or less, and the annual rent does not exceed \$750.

Why Is This Bill Needed

Under current law, the County must publish notice before leasing County property for three consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper in general circulation in the County. This public notice can become costly and lose potential tenants due to the three-week waiting period. This Bill allows the County to forgo the wait, and conserve funds spent on public notice. The element of openness and transparency will remain as the lease will be reviewed and approved at the County Council's open session meeting, which is available to the public.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB0703**.