

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

(410) 228-1700

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



JERRY JONES
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 9, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Senator
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 391 - Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 391 entitled, “Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions,” for purposes of exempting a lease of county property for a certain duration and with a certain rent made by Dorchester County from certain notice requirements; and generally relating to notice requirements for leases of county property in Dorchester County.

Dorchester County supports SB 391 because it allows the County to more effectively manage county-owned property by permitting short-term leases of five years or less, with an annual rent of \$750 or less, to move forward in a timely and practical manner. This targeted flexibility helps the County reduce administrative costs that can outweigh the value of small-scale leases, while remaining fiscally responsible, efficient, and competitive. Importantly, all leases will continue to be reviewed and approved during open session County Council meetings, ensuring continued public oversight and transparency.

These types of leases are frequently used to support nonprofit organizations, agricultural uses, state partners, and small businesses that provide direct benefit to the community. Providing limited flexibility for these low-impact leases allows the County to respond more effectively to opportunities that support local economic activity, job retention, and essential community services. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, 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

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February 9, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Delegate
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 703 - Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions

Dear Chairman Wells and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 703 entitled, “Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions,” for purposes of exempting a lease of county property for a certain duration and with a certain rent made by Dorchester County from certain notice requirements; and generally relating to notice requirements for leases of county property in Dorchester County.

Dorchester County supports HB 703 because it allows the County to more effectively manage county-owned property by permitting short-term leases of five years or less, with an annual rent of \$750 or less, to move forward in a timely and practical manner. This targeted flexibility helps the County reduce administrative costs that can outweigh the value of small-scale leases, while remaining fiscally responsible, efficient, and competitive. Importantly, all leases will continue to be reviewed and approved during open session County Council meetings, ensuring continued public oversight and transparency.

These types of leases are frequently used to support nonprofit organizations, agricultural uses, state partners, and small businesses that provide direct benefit to the community. Providing limited flexibility for these low-impact leases allows the County to respond more effectively to opportunities that support local economic activity, job retention, and essential community services. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

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

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
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The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate