

SB391

Uploaded by: George Pfeffer

Position: FAV

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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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JERRY JONES
COUNTY MANAGER
MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

SB391

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: FAV

SENATOR JOHNNY MAUTZ
CHAIR



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
DORCHESTER COUNTY DELEGATION

February 10, 2026

Senator Will Smith
Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT
SB391 Dorchester County – County Property Leases – Notice Exemptions

The Dorchester County Senate Delegation supports SB391 Dorchester County – County Property Leases – Notice Exemptions.

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

Sincerely,

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

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

SB391 - MDDC Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Snyder

Position: UNF



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | rsnyder@mddcpress.com

www.mddcpress.com

To: Judiciary Proceedings Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 6, 2026

Re: SB 391 – UNFAVORABLE

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations. Our membership ranges from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as the Star Democrat and Dorchester Star, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew. Our membership spans both for-profit and nonprofit organizations and reflects the full ecosystem of local journalism relied upon by Marylanders every day.

The Press Association opposes SB 391.

This bill would allow Dorchester County government to exempt leases of five years or less from public notice requirements. We believe that this change would lead to more secrecy in government real estate decisions. Public notice statutes require governments to share information about their actions. Disposition of real estate, even on a lease, is a matter of considerable public interest. Diminishing the public's right to know on these matters is not good public policy.

We urge an unfavorable report.



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