

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 703 (Dorchester County Delegation)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

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**Dorchester County - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions**

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This bill authorizes Dorchester County to enter into a lease of county property without giving notice, as specified, if the lease has a term of five years or less and annual rent up to \$750.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Dorchester County advertising expenditures may decrease beginning in FY 2027; however, any impact is likely to be minimal. Dorchester County revenues are not directly affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Before a county disposes, grants, or leases county property, the county is required to publish notice of the action once a week for three consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The notice must include the terms and the compensation to be received and give opportunity for objections. A county may grant an easement for a public utility without giving notice.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Dorchester County expenditures for advertising public notices may decrease beginning in fiscal 2027. The current cost for the county to advertise each notice is estimated at \$200.

Dorchester County advises that the removal of the three-week published notice requirement under the bill could potentially result in the county leasing out certain county properties more quickly.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 797 and HB 563 of 2025.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 391 (Dorchester County Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Dorchester County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2026  
sj/tso

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Analysis by: Kayvon Samadani

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510