

RESOLUTION NO. 531

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING BAY RESTORATION
FEE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Environment Article, Section 9-1605.2, as amended by the General Assembly during the 2012 legislative session, Dorchester County is required to establish a program to exempt from paying the bay restoration fee certain residential dwellings able to demonstrate substantial financial hardship as a result of the restoration fee; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland wishes to adopt a financial hardship exemption program for residential customers based on the guidelines provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland hereby adopts the financial hardship exemption program for residential customers attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

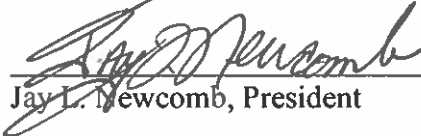
THIS RESOLUTION shall take effect immediately upon its passage.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of October, 2012


ATTEST:


Jane Baynard, County Manager

The County Council of Dorchester County


Jay L. Newcomb, President


William V. Nichols, Vice-President


Tom Bradshaw


Ricky C. Travers


Rick M. Price

FILED

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CIRCUIT COURT
DORCHESTER COUNTY

Exhibit A

Dorchester County, Maryland
Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Application

Instructions: Applications may be mailed to the Dorchester County at P.O. Box 66, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 or dropped off in person during regular business hours at Room 102 of the County Office Building at 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. If you have questions, call 410.228.7291. Please type or print all information required by this form.

Property ID #

Tax Billing Year

Property Owner Name(s)

Telephone Number

Property Owner Name(s)

Mailing Address

Property Address

City, State, Zip

Is this a residential owner-occupied property?

- Yes (Proceed to Question 2)
No (If no, this property is not eligible for exemption)

Have you been approved for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit for the tax billing year above?

- Yes (Proceed to Question 3)
No (If no, this property is not eligible for exemption)

Are you currently receiving benefits from at least one of the following programs?

- Energy assistance subsidy
Public assistance -supplemental security income (SSI) or food stamps
Veterans or social security disability benefits

- Yes (Please provide a copy of a recent statement)
No (If no, this property is not eligible for exemption)

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare under the penalties of perjury that the information provided on this application is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct, and complete.

Applicant's Signature

Date

For Finance Department Use Only

Date application received Verify Homeowner's Tax Credit Approval
Exemption Approved or Denied

EXHIBIT A

DORCHESTER COUNTY BAY RESTORATION FEE EXEMPTION PROGRAM**Background**

In 2004, the State of Maryland established the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) program to restore the vitality of the Chesapeake Bay by combating nitrogen and phosphorous pollution. The BRF provides financial assistance for upgrading wastewater treatment plants and other efforts to reduce nutrient flow into the waters of the State. As a revenue source for the BRF, a fee is charged to users of wastewater facilities, septic systems, and sewage holding tanks. The bay restoration fee is collected by local governments and other billing authorities on behalf of the State. Maryland law requires billing authorities, including Dorchester County, to establish a program to exempt certain residential dwellings from paying the bay restoration fee because of substantial financial hardship. The program is subject to the approval of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Application Process

Applicant annually completes the Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Application and submits with supporting documentation to Dorchester Department of Finance, Room 102, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. Supporting documentation to verify receipt of energy assistance, public assistance, or disability benefits.

Financial Hardship Factors

Applicants will be granted the financial hardship exemption if they receive a Maryland Homeowner's Property Tax Credit and one of the following conditions is met:

- Receiving energy assistance subsidy from the Department of Social Services;
- Receiving public assistance – such as Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Medical Assistance (MA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or other public assistance benefits from the Department of Social Services;
- Receiving disability benefits from the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Social Security Administration