

Chapter 190

(House Bill 528)

AN ACT concerning

Public Utilities – Water or Sewage Disposal Systems – Rates

FOR the purpose of allowing the Public Service Commission to authorize a certain rate consolidation of two or more water or sewage disposal systems under certain circumstances; defining the term “rate consolidation”; and generally relating to water or sewage disposal systems.

BY adding to

Article – Public Utilities

Section 4–307

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2010 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

4–307.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “RATE CONSOLIDATION” MEANS THE USE OF THE SAME OR SIMILAR RATES OR TARIFF SCHEDULES OF RATES FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE SAME CLASS FOR TWO OR MORE WATER OR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS EVEN IF THE SYSTEMS ARE NOT PHYSICALLY INTERCONNECTED.

(B) AFTER NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS AND HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING AND AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING, THE COMMISSION MAY AUTHORIZE A RATE CONSOLIDATION OF TWO OR MORE WATER OR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS IF:

(1) THE WATER OR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS HAVE COMMON OWNERSHIP; AND

(2) THE RATE CONSOLIDATION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.