

HOUSE BILL 325

L5, C5
HB 418/18 – ENV

9lr0532

By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George’s County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2019
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Indirect Customer Assistance**
3 **Program**

4 **MC/PG 105–19**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to
6 establish an Indirect Customer Assistance Program for certain purposes; requiring
7 the Commission to establish certain eligibility standards and processes for receiving
8 certain assistance if the program is established; requiring the program to be funded
9 from Commission revenues; requiring income eligibility standards for the program
10 to be uniformly applied throughout the sanitary district; defining certain terms; and
11 generally relating to customer assistance and rates of the Washington Suburban
12 Sanitary Commission.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Public Utilities
15 Section 25–501
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utilities**

21 25–501.

22 (a) The Commission shall set a service rate that the Commission considers
23 necessary to provide funds for:

24 (1) maintaining, repairing, and operating its water supply and sewer

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 systems, including the overhead expense and depreciation allowance; and

2 (2) making any payments to the District of Columbia, as specified in this
3 title.

4 (b) The service rate:

5 (1) shall be chargeable against all properties for a connection with any line
6 owned by the Commission;

7 (2) shall be uniform throughout the sanitary district; and

8 (3) may be changed as necessary.

9 **25-501.1.**

10 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12 (2) "INDIRECT CUSTOMER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

13 (I) RECEIVES WATER SERVICE OR SEWER SERVICE OR BOTH
14 FROM THE COMMISSION; BUT

15 (II) IS NOT BILLED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE SERVICE.

16 (3) "RATEPAYER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A BILL
17 DIRECTLY FROM THE COMMISSION FOR WATER SERVICE OR SEWER SERVICE OR
18 BOTH.

19 [(c)] (B) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, on or before July 1, 2015, the
20 Commission shall establish a Customer Assistance Program to provide financial assistance
21 with water and sewer bills to eligible ratepayers.

22 (2) [(i)] The Commission shall establish income eligibility standards for
23 a ratepayer to receive financial assistance under this subsection.

24 [(ii)] The income eligibility standards established under this
25 paragraph shall be applied uniformly throughout the sanitary district.

26 (3) The Customer Assistance Program shall be funded from Commission
27 revenues.]

28 (C) (1) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH AN INDIRECT CUSTOMER
29 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

1 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE INDIRECT CUSTOMERS FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.**

3 **(3) IF THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES A PROGRAM UNDER THIS**
4 **SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH INCOME ELIGIBILITY**
5 **STANDARDS AND A PROCESS FOR AN INDIRECT CUSTOMER TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(D) (1) THE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE INDIRECT**
8 **CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED FROM COMMISSION**
9 **REVENUES.**

10 **(2) INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR THE CUSTOMER**
11 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE INDIRECT CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
12 **SHALL BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT THE SANITARY DISTRICT.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2019.