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By: **Delegate Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Municipal Water and Sewerage Systems - Unpaid Sewerage Charges -**  
3                                   **Disconnection of Water Service**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing political subdivisions, as defined for certain statutory  
5 purposes, to disconnect water service based on certain delinquent sewerage bills  
6 owed to the political subdivision or owed to another political subdivision;  
7 requiring certain notice before disconnecting water service; authorizing a  
8 political subdivision to require full payment of a sewerage bill plus a  
9 reconnection charge before reconnection of water service; repealing similar  
10 authorization applicable to a single sanitary commission; providing for the  
11 application and construction of certain provisions of this Act; and generally  
12 relating to municipal water and sewerage systems operated by certain general  
13 or limited purpose governments.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article - Environment  
16 Section 9-720 and 9-721(a)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article - Environment  
21 Section 9-726.1  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

24 BY repealing  
25 Article - Environment  
26 Section 9-662(n)  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Environment**

4 9-720.

5 In Part III of this subtitle, "political subdivision" means any public body of this  
6 State that owns or operates any water or sewerage system, including:

- 7 (1) A county;
- 8 (2) A commission;
- 9 (3) A district; or
- 10 (4) A municipal corporation.

11 9-721.

12 (a) The powers granted to political subdivisions by Part III of this subtitle are  
13 supplementary to any other powers of the political subdivisions.

14 9-726.1.

15 (A) IF A BILL FOR SEWERAGE SERVICE IS UNPAID FOR 30 DAYS AFTER BEING  
16 SENT, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY DISCONNECT WATER SERVICE TO THE  
17 PROPERTY.

18 (B) BEFORE DISCONNECTING WATER SERVICE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE  
19 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE:

20 (1) BY MAIL SENT TO THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE OWNER OF  
21 THE PROPERTY; OR

22 (2) BY POSTING THE NOTICE ON THE PREMISES OF THE PROPERTY  
23 SERVED.

24 (C) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES IF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:

25 (I) PROVIDES SEWERAGE SERVICE TO A PROPERTY; BUT

26 (II) DOES NOT PROVIDE WATER SERVICE TO THE PROPERTY AND  
27 WATER SERVICE IS PROVIDED TO THE PROPERTY BY ANOTHER POLITICAL  
28 SUBDIVISION.

29 (2) IF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ADVISES ANOTHER POLITICAL  
30 SUBDIVISION THAT A BILL FOR SEWERAGE SERVICE IS UNPAID FOR 30 DAYS AFTER  
31 BEING SENT, SUBJECT TO THE NOTICE PROVISIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS  
32 SECTION, THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION INFORMED OF THE UNPAID BILL MAY  
33 DISCONNECT WATER SERVICE TO THE PROPERTY.

1 (D) BEFORE RECONNECTING WATER SERVICE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY  
2 REQUIRE FULL PAYMENT OF THE SEWERAGE BILL PLUS A RECONNECTION CHARGE  
3 REASONABLY RELATED TO THE COST OF RECONNECTION, AS ESTABLISHED BY  
4 REGULATION OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

5 (E) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE USE OF ANY OTHER  
6 PROCEDURE AVAILABLE TO A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO COLLECT UNPAID  
7 SEWERAGE CHARGES.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 9-662(n) of  
9 Article - Environment of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act may  
11 not be construed to have any effect on any action taken by or initiated by the Garrett  
12 County Sanitary Commission pursuant to Chapter 448 of the Acts of the General  
13 Assembly of 1997.

14 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 1999.