

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 691 (Delegate Edwards)

Environmental Matters

---

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

---

This bill authorizes a political subdivision to disconnect water service for a property if a bill for water service is unpaid for 30 days after being sent. The bill requires the political subdivision to provide notice by mail to the last known address of the owner of the property or post the notice on the premises prior to disconnecting water service. The bill also authorizes a political subdivision to disconnect water service to a property if notified by another political subdivision of unpaid sewerage service. In addition, the bill authorizes a political subdivision to require full payment of the sewerage bill plus a reconnection charge reasonably related to the cost of reconnection as established by regulation. The provisions of the bill do not preclude any political subdivision from using any other procedure available to collect unpaid sewerage charges.

The bill repeals current law that deals with unpaid sewerage charges and the disconnection of water service by the Garrett County Sanitary Commission. This repeal may not be construed to have any effect on any action taken or initiated by the Garrett County Sanitary Commission in collecting unpaid charges or disconnecting water service.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not materially alter State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None. The requirements of the bill could be handled with existing local government resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Washington Suburban

Sanitary Commission, Greenbelt, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - March 2, 1999

ncs/jr

---

Analysis by: Mike Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510