
By: **Delegates Edwards and Guns**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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 a 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 2000 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article - Environment
21 Section 9-726.1
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

24 BY repealing
25 Article - Environment
26 Section 9-662(n)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 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, 2001.