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By: **Delegates Edwards and Guns**  
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted with floor amendments  
Read second time: March 15, 2001

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; altering a certain  
11 definition; providing for the application and construction of certain provisions of  
12 this Act; and generally relating to municipal water and sewerage systems  
13 operated by certain general or limited purpose governments.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - Environment  
16 Section 9-720  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article - Environment  
21 Section ~~9-720~~ and 9-721(a)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

1 Article - Environment  
 2 Section 9-726.1  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

5 BY repealing  
 6 Article - Environment  
 7 Section 9-662(n)  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Environment**

13 9-720.

14 In Part III of this subtitle, "political ~~subdivision~~" means SUBDIVISION":

15 (1) MEANS any public body of this State that owns or operates any water  
 16 or sewerage system, including:

17 (1) A county;

18 (2) A commission;

19 (3) A district; or

20 (4) A municipal corporation; AND

21 (2) DOES NOT INCLUDE THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY  
 22 COMMISSION.

23 9-721.

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

26 9-726.1.

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

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

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

3 (2) BY POSTING THE NOTICE ON THE PREMISES OF THE PROPERTY  
4 SERVED.

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

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

7 (II) DOES NOT PROVIDE WATER SERVICE TO THE PROPERTY AND  
8 WATER SERVICE IS PROVIDED TO THE PROPERTY BY ANOTHER POLITICAL  
9 SUBDIVISION.

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

15 (D) BEFORE RECONNECTING WATER SERVICE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY  
16 REQUIRE FULL PAYMENT OF THE SEWERAGE BILL PLUS A RECONNECTION CHARGE  
17 REASONABLY RELATED TO THE COST OF RECONNECTION, AS ESTABLISHED BY  
18 REGULATION OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

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

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

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

28 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 2001.