

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1281 (Delegate Weir)  
Environmental Matters

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Sewage and Water Fees - Swimming Pools

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This bill requires a political subdivision or sanitary district to provide a sewer service credit to the owner of a property with a private pool for sewer service charges incurred between April 1 and September 30 if the sewer service charge is based on the water consumption rate. The credit is equal to half the difference between the average charge for the property from October 1 to March 31 and the charge incurred from April 1 to September 30.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local revenues from sewer service charges would decrease by an indeterminate amount. It is assumed that the costs of sewer service credits provided to homeowners with private swimming pools would be passed on to all water and sewer customers in the form of higher rates. *This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.*

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** There is no provision of law that requires a political subdivision or sanitary district to provide a sewer service credit to homeowners with a private swimming pool.

**Background:** Counties that do not charge a water sewer rate based on the water consumption rate would not be affected by the bill's provisions. Anne Arundel County provides a similar credit to homeowners with a private swimming pool. In Baltimore County, homeowners with a private swimming pool may request a credit for sewer use charges.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local revenues from sewer service charges would decrease by an indeterminate amount. To offset the costs of providing a sewer use credit to homeowners with a private swimming pool, counties would minimally increase the sewer usage rate charged to all customers. Additionally, local governments that do not provide for a quarterly billing cycle may be required to make special meter readings twice a year at homes with private swimming pools. Local government revenues could increase if the costs of special meter readings are charged to homeowners with a private swimming pool. For example, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission advises that its expenditures would increase by approximately \$100,000 for special water meter readings, which would be recouped because the costs of special meter readings would be charged directly to homeowners receiving the credit.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 20, 2002  
mam/hlb

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Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510