
By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2004

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Sewer Usage Charges**
3 **PG/MC 118-04**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the basis of certain sewer usage charges collected by the
5 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); and generally relating to
6 sewerage usage charges collected by the WSSC on properties connected to the
7 WSSC's sewerage system.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 29 - Washington Suburban Sanitary District
10 Section 4-110(d)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article 29 - Washington Suburban Sanitary District**

16 4-110.

17 (d) For the purpose of retiring the bonds authorized to be issued by this
18 section and the payment of the interest thereon and for the purpose of paying for the
19 cost of the maintenance of its sewerage system and its disposal facilities, including
20 the overhead expense and proper depreciation allowance, and payments to the
21 District of Columbia for disposal of sanitary district sewage, the WSSC shall be
22 empowered and directed to make a sewer usage charge, chargeable against all
23 properties connected to the WSSC's sewerage system. The charges shall be based
24 upon the [water consumption of] ACTUAL AMOUNT OF WATER THAT ENTERS INTO
25 THE SANITARY SYSTEM FROM the properties connected to the sewerage system,
26 except that where the WSSC furnishes sewerage service to a property which is not
27 connected to the WSSC's water system the WSSC shall make a sewer usage charge on
28 an annual, semi-annual, or monthly basis, which will fairly and ratably compensate

1 the WSSC for the use of the sewerage system by such property, and in fixing the
2 charge for properties not connected to the water system the WSSC shall take into
3 consideration the usage made of the sewerage system by such property and the sewer
4 usage charge applicable to like or similar properties connected to the water system. In
5 the event that water furnished by the WSSC to any lot or parcel of land shall be used
6 exclusively for any purpose which results in the water not entering the sewerage
7 system of the WSSC, then and in that event the owner, tenant or occupant of such lot
8 or parcel shall not be charged a sewer usage charge for the water so used, provided,
9 however, that the owner, tenant or occupant of such lot or parcel shall pay to the
10 WSSC the cost of installing such a separate metered connection as well as an annual
11 amount equal to the WSSC's annual water service charge for the size of the meter so
12 installed for measuring the water so used and which meter connection upon such
13 payment shall be installed at a location to be determined by it and shall thereafter be
14 maintained and exclusively controlled by the WSSC under such rules and regulations
15 as the WSSC may adopt. Wherever the property of any federal, State or other agency
16 is exempt from front foot benefit charges and ad valorem taxes imposed under the
17 provisions of Chapter 122 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1918,
18 and amendments thereto, and the property is connected to the WSSC's sewerage
19 system, the WSSC shall make a sewer usage charge against the property so
20 connected, with full authority to change the same from time to time, which charge
21 shall take into consideration the general tax, and front foot benefit charge levied
22 within the sanitary district in addition to the regular sewer usage charge provided
23 herein. The sum so collected annually for the payment of principal and interest due
24 on outstanding bonds shall be deducted from the amount which the WSSC has
25 determined to be necessary to be raised by direct taxation upon certification to the
26 County Councils of said counties. Bills for the amount of the charges shall be sent
27 monthly, quarterly or semi-annually, as the WSSC may determine to each property
28 connected to the sewerage system, and shall be thereupon payable at the office of the
29 WSSC; and if any bill shall remain unpaid after 30 days from date of sending, the
30 WSSC shall after written notice, to be left upon the premises or mailed to the last
31 known address of the owner, turn off the water from the property in question and it
32 shall not be turned on again until the bill shall have been paid. If any bills shall
33 remain unpaid for 60 days after being sent out by the WSSC it shall be collectible
34 against the owner of the property served, in the same manner as other debts are
35 collectible in the respective counties. The provisions of this section shall not be
36 construed as authority to repudiate any existing contracts between the WSSC and
37 any municipality located within the sanitary district without the consent of the
38 municipality.

39 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
40 effect October 1, 2004.