

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 378

(Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Garrett County - Fees for Discontinuing and Restoring Water Service

This bill authorizes the County Commissioners of Garrett County to adopt, amend, and enforce a reasonable charge for discontinuing and restoring water service, subject to the regulations of the Public Service Commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: If Garrett County chooses to raise or lower fees for discontinuing and restoring water service, revenues would increase or decrease by a corresponding amount. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: If a water bill remains unpaid after 30 days from the date the bill is sent, and after a written notice is left on the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, the sanitary commission may disconnect the water service to the property. Additionally, the sanitary commission may require, before reconnecting water service, payment of the entire water bill plus a reconnection charge reasonably related to the cost of reconnection, as established by ordinance of the governing body of the county or municipal corporation in which the water service is provided.

Background: Chapter 289 of 1993 set the maximum reconnection charge in the Garrett County Sanitary District at \$25. Chapter 387 of 1994, however, repealed the provision of the maximum reconnection charge in the Garrett County Sanitary District, and authorized local governments to set their own reconnection charges, reasonably related to the cost of reconnection. The maximum charge of \$25 set by Chapter 289 remains in effect, however, until enacted, modified, or repealed in accordance with the ordinances enacted by the county government.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2005
ncs/hlb

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