
By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment - Sewerage Service - Unpaid Services**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a private water company to disconnect water service
4 if a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for a certain number of days; authorizing
5 a private water company to charge a certain fee when it reconnects water
6 service; and generally relating to unpaid sewerage services.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Environment
9 Section 9-726.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Environment**

15 9-726.1.

16 (a) If a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for 30 days after being sent, a
17 political subdivision may disconnect water service to the property.

18 (b) Before disconnecting water service under this section, the political
19 subdivision shall provide notice:

20 (1) By mail sent to the last known address of the owner of the property;
21 or

22 (2) By posting the notice on the premises of the property served.

23 (c) (1) This subsection applies if a political subdivision:

24 (i) Provides sewerage service to a property; but

1 (ii) Does not provide water service to the property and water
2 service is provided to the property by another political subdivision OR BY A PRIVATE
3 WATER COMPANY.

4 (2) If a political subdivision advises another political subdivision OR A
5 PRIVATE WATER COMPANY that a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for 30 days after
6 being sent, subject to the notice provisions under subsection (b) of this section, the
7 political subdivision OR PRIVATE WATER COMPANY informed of the unpaid bill may
8 disconnect water service to the property.

9 (d) (1) Before reconnecting water service, a political subdivision may require
10 full payment of the sewerage bill plus a reconnection charge reasonably related to the
11 cost of reconnection, as established by regulation of the political subdivision.

12 (2) A PRIVATE WATER COMPANY MAY APPLY A REASONABLE
13 RECONNECTION CHARGE WHEN IT RECONNECTS WATER SERVICE.

14 (e) This subsection does not preclude the use of any other procedure available
15 to a political subdivision to collect unpaid sewerage charges.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2006.