
By: **Senator Colburn**

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Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, March 8, 2006

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2006

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of extending the period of time after which a political subdivision or
 4 private water company may disconnect water service to a property if a bill for
 5 sewerage service is unpaid; authorizing a private water company to disconnect
 6 water service if a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for a certain number of
 7 days; authorizing a private water company to charge a certain fee in accordance
 8 with certain requirements when it reconnects water service; and generally
 9 relating to unpaid sewerage services.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 11 Article - Environment
 12 Section 9-726.1
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
 14 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Environment**

18 9-726.1.

19 (a) If a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for ~~30~~ 45 days after being sent, a
 20 political subdivision may disconnect water service to the property.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (2) If a political subdivision advises another political subdivision OR A
12 PRIVATE WATER COMPANY that a bill for sewerage service is unpaid for ~~30~~ 45 days
13 after being sent, subject to the notice provisions under subsection (b) of this section,
14 the political subdivision OR PRIVATE WATER COMPANY informed of the unpaid bill
15 may disconnect water service to the property.

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

19 (2) A PRIVATE WATER COMPANY MAY APPLY A REASONABLE
20 RECONNECTION CHARGE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATEMAKING REQUIREMENTS
21 OF TITLE 4 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARTICLE, WHEN IT RECONNECTS
22 WATER SERVICE.

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

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