

# HOUSE BILL 926

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development**  
3 **Surcharge – Exemptions**

4 **PG/MC 106–08**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the county councils of Montgomery County and Prince  
6 George's County to grant an exemption from a system development charge  
7 imposed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for certain  
8 properties owned by certain entities that are exempt from federal taxation and  
9 whose primary use, mission, and purpose is to provide programs and services to  
10 youth under certain circumstances; extending through a certain date the  
11 authority of the county councils of Montgomery County and Prince George's  
12 County to grant a certain exemption from a certain system development charge;  
13 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
14 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and the system development  
15 charge.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article 29 – Washington Suburban Sanitary District  
18 Section 6–113  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Chapter 423 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007  
23 Section 3

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

26 **Article 29 – Washington Suburban Sanitary District**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 6-113.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (2) "Fixture unit" means the assigned value for a particular plumbing  
4 fixture, or group of plumbing fixtures, as set forth in the WSSC plumbing and gas  
5 fitting regulations, standardized with a common lavatory having an assigned value of  
6 1 based on its probable discharge into the drainage system or hydraulic demand on the  
7 water supply.

8 (3) "New service" means:

9 (i) A first time connection of a property to the WSSC water or  
10 sewer system; or

11 (ii) A new connection or increased water meter size for a  
12 property previously or currently served by the WSSC if the new connection or  
13 increased meter size is needed because of a change in the use of the property or an  
14 increase in demand for service at the property.

15 (4) "Toilet" means a water closet, as set forth in the WSSC plumbing  
16 and gas fitting regulations.

17 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, in addition to any other  
18 charges authorized under this article, the WSSC may impose a system development  
19 charge that shall be paid by an applicant for new service.

20 (2) The system development charge shall be paid as follows:

21 (i) For residential properties:

22 1. 50% at the time the application is filed; and

23 2. 50% within 12 months after the date on which a  
24 plumbing permit application is filed with the Commission or on transfer of title to the  
25 property, whichever occurs first; and

26 (ii) For other properties, 100% at the time the plumbing permit  
27 application is filed.

28 (3) At the time of the filing of the plumbing permit application, the  
29 applicant shall deposit with the WSSC security in the form of an irrevocable letter of  
30 credit or a financial guaranty bond or in a form established and approved by the  
31 WSSC under its rules and regulations.

1 (c) (1) (i) The Montgomery County Council and the Prince George's  
2 County Council shall meet annually to discuss and approve the amount of the system  
3 development charge.

4 (ii) The amount of the charge for a particular property:

5 1. Shall be based on the number of plumbing fixtures  
6 and the assigned values for those fixtures as set forth in the WSSC plumbing and gas  
7 fitting regulations;

8 2. Except as provided in item 3 of this subparagraph, on  
9 or after July 1, 1998, may not exceed \$200 per fixture unit;

10 3. For residential properties with five or fewer toilets,  
11 shall be based on the number of toilets per dwelling unit and:

12 A. For each apartment unit, may not exceed \$2,000;

13 B. For dwellings with one or two toilets, may not exceed  
14 \$3,000;

15 C. For dwellings with three to four toilets, may not  
16 exceed \$5,000; or

17 D. For dwellings with five toilets, may not exceed \$7,000;  
18 and

19 4. For dwellings with more than five toilets, shall be  
20 calculated on a fixture unit basis.

21 (iii) When establishing the charge under this section, the County  
22 Councils shall identify and consider the actual cost of construction of WSSC facilities.

23 (iv) When establishing the charge under this section, under  
24 criteria established jointly and agreed to by the County Councils, the County Councils:

25 1. Shall grant a full or partial exemption from the  
26 charge for public sponsored or affordable housing as jointly defined and agreed upon  
27 by the County Councils;

28 2. May grant a full or partial exemption from the charge  
29 for:

30 A. Revitalization projects; or

31 B. If the property is used [exclusively] **PRIMARILY** for  
32 programs and services to youth, property owned by a community-based organization  
33 that is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that

1 has the [exclusive] **PRIMARY** mission and purpose of providing programs and services  
2 to youth, provided the exemption amount is limited to \$80,000; and

3 3. May grant a full or partial exemption from the charge,  
4 under conditions prescribed by the County Councils, for:

5 A. Residential property located in a mixed retirement  
6 development as defined in the zoning ordinance of Prince George's County;

7 B. Residential property located in a planned retirement  
8 community as defined in the zoning ordinance of Montgomery County;

9 C. Other elderly housing; or

10 D. Properties used for biotechnology research and  
11 development, or manufacturing.

12 (v) On July 1, 1999, and July 1 of each succeeding year, the  
13 maximum charge, as established in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, may be  
14 changed by an amount equal to the prior calendar year's change in the consumer price  
15 index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of  
16 Labor for urban wage earners and clerical workers for all items for the Washington,  
17 D.C. metropolitan area, or the successor index.

18 (2) If the charge established by the County Councils is less than the  
19 amount necessary to recover the full cost of constructing growth related facilities, the  
20 WSSC shall identify the portion of the cost of that growth that will be paid by current  
21 ratepayers as:

22 (i) A percentage of any rate increase; and

23 (ii) The annual monetary amount on a typical residential  
24 customer's annual water and sewer bill.

25 (3) If the County Councils do not agree on the amount of the charge,  
26 the charge imposed during the previous year shall continue in effect for the following  
27 fiscal year.

28 (4) If the County Councils have not previously agreed on any system  
29 development charge, a system development charge may not be imposed during that  
30 fiscal year.

31 (5) (i) Before July 1, 1994, the WSSC may not impose a system  
32 development charge in an amount greater than 50% of the charge established by the  
33 County Councils under this subsection.

1 (ii) Before July 1, 1995, the WSSC may not impose a system  
2 development charge greater than 75% of the charge established by the County  
3 Councils under this subsection.

4 (d) (1) (i) The WSSC shall deposit all funds collected under the system  
5 development charge into the system development charge fund.

6 (ii) The system development charge fund is a special fund which  
7 may not revert to general funds of the WSSC.

8 (2) The WSSC may only use the funds collected under the system  
9 development charge to:

10 (i) Pay for new treatment, transmission, and collection  
11 facilities, the need for which is directly attributable to the addition of new service, and  
12 the construction of which began after July 1, 1993; or

13 (ii) Amortize any bond that is issued in connection with the  
14 construction of those new facilities.

15 (3) Other costs of enhancement, maintenance, or environmental  
16 regulation on existing or new systems shall be borne equally by all ratepayers.

17 (e) (1) The WSSC may allow a developer to design and construct any  
18 on-site or off-site facilities necessary for a project of the developer, as long as those  
19 facilities are:

20 (i) In the WSSC Capital Improvement Program and the  
21 10-year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage System Plan adopted by one of  
22 the County Councils;

23 (ii) Major projects included in the WSSC Capital Improvement  
24 Program; or

25 (iii) Projects that include a sewer main or a water main that:

26 1. Provides only local service;

27 2. Is 2,000 feet or less;

28 3. Has a diameter of:

29 A. 15 inches or more if it is a sewer main; or

30 B. 16 inches or more if it is a water main; and

31 4. Is built to avoid unnecessary and uneconomical  
32 duplication when a major project is constructed.

1           (2) A facility constructed under this subsection shall be designed,  
2 constructed, and inspected in accordance with:

3                   (i) The standards utilized by the WSSC; and

4                   (ii) All applicable laws, regulations, and written policies of the  
5 WSSC.

6           (3) After the WSSC approves facilities constructed by a developer  
7 under this subsection, the WSSC shall:

8                   (i) Accept the facilities as part of the WSSC system; and

9                   (ii) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this subsection,  
10 grant the developer a credit against any charge imposed under this section in an  
11 amount equal to the cost of constructing those facilities.

12           (4) The internal auditor of the WSSC shall review and approve the  
13 costs incurred by the developer.

14           (5) The WSSC and the developer shall enter into an agreement  
15 incorporating the provisions of this subsection.

16           (6) If the WSSC rejects a developer's request to design and construct  
17 facilities under this subsection, the WSSC shall submit to the developer a written  
18 explanation of the reasons for the rejection.

19           (7) The WSSC shall submit a report at the end of each fiscal year to  
20 the House and Senate Delegations of both counties and to the County Councils. The  
21 report shall state the number of requests made by developers under this subsection  
22 including the number of acceptances and rejections by the WSSC and the justification  
23 for any rejections.

24                                   **Chapter 423 of the Acts of 2007**

25           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **5** years and, at the end of  
27 June 30, [2009] **2012**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
28 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June  
31 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
32 abrogated and of no further force and effect.