

## **CHAPTER 368**

**(House Bill 82)**

AN ACT concerning

### **Frederick County – Overdue Water and Sewer Charge – Restoration of Service Penalty**

FOR the purpose of altering the penalty imposed on water users in Frederick County for restoring service after an overdue charge for water and sewer services has been paid; and generally relating to water and sewer service charges in Frederick County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
The Public Local Laws of Frederick County  
Section 2–13–23(a)(1)  
Article 11 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(2004 Edition and September 2008 Supplement, as amended)

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

#### **Article 11 – Frederick County**

2–13–23.

(a) For the purpose of providing funds for maintaining, repairing, and operating its water and sewerage systems and for its operation and other expenses, including property depreciation allowances, and for interest on and the retirement of bonds as specified in this chapter, the board may make the following charges:

(1) A water and sewer service charge. The rates for water and sewer service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge which shall be based upon the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings. The meter shall be required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the county, and it shall remain the property of the county. The rates shall be classified within Frederick County in whatever manner the board deems advisable. However, the classification shall be based upon the quantities of water used and shall be, insofar as possible, uniform throughout Frederick County. If the board at any time does not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected to the system, then a flat rate shall be charged on properties in which meters have not yet been installed. That rate shall be uniform in each system and

based upon the ready-to-serve charge and the amount of water used. Bills for water and sewer charges shall be sent either quarterly or semiannually, as the board determines, to each property served and shall be payable at the office of the board or whatever other place the board designates. The charges shall be a lien upon the property served and collectible as elsewhere provided. If any bill remains unpaid 30 days after the date it was sent, the board, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, shall turn off the water from the property in question. The water may not be turned on again until the bill has been paid, including a [\$10] penalty **IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**