

# SENATE BILL 37

M3, L6

2lr0779

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Colburn**

Requested: October 24, 2011

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Water and Sewer Service – Late Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the sanitary district in Dorchester County to charge a  
4 certain late fee for certain unpaid usage charges related to certain water,  
5 sewerage, or solid waste projects; authorizing the sanitary commission in  
6 Dorchester County to require the payment of certain late fees before  
7 reconnecting with certain water service; providing that when a certain charge is  
8 in default it will accrue interest from a certain date and at a certain rate; and  
9 generally relating to water and sewer service charges in Dorchester County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Environment  
12 Section 9–601(a), (d), (j), and (k) and 9–662(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Environment  
17 Section 9–662(n)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Environment**

23 9–601.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) (1) "District" means an entity that is created under this subtitle.

2 (2) "District" includes a board, body, or commission that assumes the  
3 principal functions of a district that is created under this subtitle and later abolished.

4 (j) "Project" means a water system, sewerage system, solid waste disposal  
5 system, or solid waste acceptance facility or any part of these that a district owns,  
6 constructs, or operates.

7 (k) "Sanitary commission" means a sanitary commission created under this  
8 subtitle.

9 9-662.

10 (a) For each project that it operates, a district may charge the owners of  
11 parcels serviced by or connected to the project:

12 (1) A minimum charge; and

13 (2) A usage charge that is based on the use of the project by the owner  
14 of the parcel.

15 (n) (1) [In Somerset County, notwithstanding any other provisions of  
16 law:] **THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN DORCHESTER COUNTY AND**  
17 **SOMERSET COUNTY.**

18 (2) **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW:**

19 [(1)] (I) [The] **A** district may charge an owner of a parcel serviced by  
20 or connected to a project that the district operates a late fee for any unpaid usage  
21 charge that is based on the use of the project by the owner of the parcel;

22 [(2)] (II) [The Commission] **A SANITARY COMMISSION** may require,  
23 before reconnecting water service, payment of any applicable late fees in addition to  
24 any other charge authorized by this section; and

25 [(3)] (III) A charge that is in default shall accrue interest from the  
26 date of default at a rate set by the sanitary commission.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2012.