

## Chapter 12

### (Senate Bill 37)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Article – Environment**

9–601.

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

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

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

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

(k) “Sanitary commission” means a sanitary commission created under this subtitle.

9–662.

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

- (1) A minimum charge; and
- (2) A usage charge that is based on the use of the project by the owner of the parcel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2012.**