

# HOUSE BILL 1575

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2016  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Rates**

3 **PG/MC 119–16**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to  
5 establish certain customer classes for certain service rates or charges; requiring that  
6 service rates for each customer class shall be chargeable against certain properties  
7 and shall be uniform for a given class throughout the Washington Suburban  
8 Sanitary District; requiring that the minimum or ready to serve charge include a  
9 certain component; altering the methods by which the minimum or ready to serve  
10 charge and the service charge for water used may be based; and generally relating  
11 to the service rates of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Public Utilities  
14 Section 25–501 and 25–502(a)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Public Utilities**

20 25–501.

21 (a) The Commission shall set [a service rate] **SERVICE RATES** that the  
22 Commission considers necessary to provide funds for:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) maintaining, repairing, and operating its water supply and sewer  
2 systems, including the overhead expense and depreciation allowance; and

3 (2) making any payments to the District of Columbia, as specified in this  
4 title.

5 (b) **[The] EACH** service rate:

6 (1) shall be chargeable against all properties **IN A CLASS** for a connection  
7 with any line owned by the Commission;

8 (2) shall be uniform **FOR A CLASS** throughout the sanitary district; and

9 (3) may be changed as necessary.

10 **(C) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH ONE OR MORE CUSTOMER CLASSES**  
11 **FOR ANY SERVICE RATE OR CHARGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS TITLE.**

12 **[(c)] (D)** (1) Notwithstanding any other law, on or before July 1, 2015, the  
13 Commission shall establish a Customer Assistance Program to provide financial assistance  
14 with water and sewer bills to eligible ratepayers.

15 (2) (i) The Commission shall establish income eligibility standards for  
16 a ratepayer to receive financial assistance under this subsection.

17 (ii) The income eligibility standards established under this  
18 paragraph shall be applied uniformly throughout the sanitary district.

19 (3) The Customer Assistance Program shall be funded from Commission  
20 revenues.

21 25-502.

22 (a) (1) Except as provided in this subtitle, **[the] EACH** service rate for water  
23 shall consist of:

24 (i) a minimum or a ready to serve charge, **WHICH SHALL INCLUDE**  
25 **AN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT COMPONENT**; and

26 (ii) a charge for water used.

27 (2) The minimum or ready to serve charge **[shall] MAY** be based on the size  
28 of the meter on the water connection leading to the property **OR ON OTHER CRITERIA**  
29 **DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.**

1                   (3)   **(I)**    The charge for water used shall be based on the amount of water  
2 passing the meter during the period between the last two readings.

3                                   **(II)    THE CHARGE FOR WATER USED ALSO MAY BE BASED ON THE**  
4 **SIZE OF THE METER ON THE WATER CONNECTION LEADING TO THE PROPERTY.**

5                   (4)    The meter shall be placed on each water connection by and at the  
6 expense of the Commission.

7                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2016.