

# HOUSE BILL 674

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By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2019  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Moratorium and Study on**  
3 **Advanced Metering Infrastructure**

4 **MC/PG 101–19**

5 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission from  
6 implementing certain advanced metering infrastructure; requiring the Department  
7 of Legislative Services to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date;  
8 defining certain terms; providing for the termination of a certain provision of this  
9 Act; and generally relating to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and  
10 public water utility services.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Public Utilities  
13 Section 16–101(a) and (b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Public Utilities  
18 Section 28–102  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Public Utilities**

24 16–101.

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



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

2 (b) “Commission” means the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

3 **28-102.**

4 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
5 INDICATED.

6 (2) “ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE” MEANS SMART  
7 TECHNOLOGY THAT IS COMPOSED OF REMOTE TRANSMITTERS, TWO-WAY  
8 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A UTILITY CUSTOMER’S PREMISES AND A UTILITY  
9 COMPANY THROUGH A WIRELESS NETWORK, AND DATA MANAGEMENT.

10 (3) “AUTOMATIC METER READING” MEANS THE AUTOMATIC  
11 COLLECTION OF DATA FROM A METER DEVICE AND THE TRANSFERRING OF THAT  
12 DATA TO A CENTRAL DATABASE.

13 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT IMPLEMENT ADVANCED METERING  
14 INFRASTRUCTURE.

15 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS THE COMMISSION FROM  
16 IMPLEMENTING AUTOMATIC METER READING.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

18 (a) The Department of Legislative Services shall conduct a study comparing the  
19 costs and benefits of implementing advanced metering infrastructure or automatic meter  
20 reading by public water utilities.

21 (b) The study shall include:

22 (1) a summary of available reports on the topic; and

23 (2) a survey of the metering practices and recent investments of public  
24 water utilities in the Washington, D.C. region, Maryland, and comparable large public  
25 water utilities in the United States.

26 (c) On or before September 30, 2019, the Department of Legislative Services shall  
27 report the findings of the study to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
28 the State Government Article.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
30 1, 2019. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of

1 May 31, 2024, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
2 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.