

# HOUSE BILL 491

L2

5lr1274

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By: **Delegates T. Morgan, Crosby, and M. Morgan**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission – Discontinuance of Service**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission to  
4 discontinue all or part of water or sewer service provided to certain private properties  
5 under certain circumstances; requiring the suspension of the ready-to-serve charge  
6 on certain private properties in a certain manner; authorizing the St. Mary's County  
7 Metropolitan Commission to utilize certain remedies for a violation of certain rules  
8 and regulations concerning certain public water and sewer use; and generally  
9 relating to the discontinuance of water or sewer service provided by the St. Mary's  
10 County Metropolitan Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County  
13 Section 113–13 and 113–21C.(1) and (2)  
14 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
15 (2007 Edition and 2022 Supplement, as amended)

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

18 **Article 19 – St. Mary's County**

19 113–13.

20 **A.** In addition to any other powers and penalties contained in this chapter, the  
21 Metropolitan Commission may discontinue water and sewer service for nonpayment of any  
22 service, connection, inspection, benefit or any other charge if not paid within thirty (30)  
23 days of the due date.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **B.** In addition to payment of the bill, the Metropolitan Commission shall collect  
2 a turn-off and turn-on charge before resuming service.

3           **C. (1) THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSION MAY DISCONTINUE ALL OR**  
4 **ANY PART OF WATER OR SEWER SERVICE PROVIDED TO AN IMPROVED PRIVATE**  
5 **PROPERTY DETERMINED TO BE UNSAFE, UNFIT, OR UNSUITABLE FOR HUMAN**  
6 **OCCUPANCY DUE TO AN ACCIDENT, ARTIFICIAL DISASTER, OR NATURAL DISASTER.**

7           **(2) WHEN SERVICE IS DISCONTINUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
8 **READY-TO-SERVE CHARGE FOR THE PROPERTY SHALL BE SUSPENDED AT THE TIME**  
9 **OF DISCONTINUANCE AND REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL THE SERVICE IS RESTORED.**

10 113-21.

11           C. (1) The Metropolitan Commission may utilize administrative enforcement  
12 remedies or seek judicial enforcement remedies for a violation of any rules and regulations  
13 the Metropolitan Commission may adopt under this chapter concerning public **WATER AND**  
14 sewer use, including [public sewer drains, the installation of building sewer] **LINES, AND**  
15 **MAINS, ALL APPURTENANCES,** connections, and [the discharge of waters and wastes]  
16 **DISCHARGES** into the public sewer systems. The Metropolitan Commission shall establish  
17 procedures for implementing the enforcement remedies authorized under this subsection.

18           (2) The Metropolitan Commission may utilize administrative enforcement  
19 remedies that may include:

20                   (A) A notification of a violation;

21                   (B) A consent order;

22                   (C) A show cause hearing;

23                   (D) A compliance order;

24                   (E) A cease and desist order;

25                   (F) An administrative fine not to exceed one thousand dollars  
26 (\$1,000.00) per violation, per day;

27                   (G) An assessment for the reimbursement of actual costs incurred by  
28 the Metropolitan Commission, including, but not limited to, time and materials[, if such  
29 costs are less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)]; or

30                   (H) An emergency suspension.

31           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 October 1, 2025.