

## Chapter 599

**(House Bill 491)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

**Article 19 – St. Mary's County**

113–13.

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

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

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

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

113–21.

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

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

(A) A notification of a violation;

(B) A consent order;

(C) A show cause hearing;

(D) A compliance order;

(E) A cease and desist order;

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

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

(H) An emergency suspension.

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.**