

SENATE BILL 228

M3

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0055

CF HB 227

By: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Environmental Service)

Requested: September 25, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Environmental Service – Authorizations and Requirements –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the authority of the Treasurer of the Maryland
5 Environmental Service to delegate certain functions to the Deputy Treasurer of the
6 Service; increasing the threshold amount for estimated contract costs under which
7 the Service may use the small procurement process; altering the process for
8 providing notice of the establishment or adjustment of certain rates charged for
9 Service projects, products, or services; and generally relating to the Maryland
10 Environmental Service.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Natural Resources
13 Section 3–103(a) and (b)(1)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Natural Resources
18 Section 3–103(e) and (g)(3) and 3–108(a)(4)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Natural Resources**

24 3–103.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



6 (b) (1) There are four officers of the Service:

7 (i) An Executive Director;

8 (ii) A Deputy Director;

9 (iii) A Secretary; and

10 (iv) A Treasurer.

11 (e) (1) (i) The Treasurer shall:

24 (iii) The Treasurer shall disburse money for the purposes of the
25 Service according to law, only upon the Treasurer's warrant.

26 (iv) The Treasurer shall make arrangements for the payment of the
27 interest on and principal of the Service debt.

28 (v) Upon entering the performance of official duties, the Treasurer
29 shall be covered by a surety bond or an insurance policy of the type and in the amount of
30 coverage determined by the State Treasurer under § 5-108 of the State Government Article.

15 (ii) The Service may procure materials, equipment, services, or
16 supplies by utilizing:

1. Competitive sealed bids;
 2. Competitive sealed proposals;
 3. Sole source procurement;
 4. Intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements;

27 3-108.

28 (a) (4) (i) [Before] **AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE** establishing or adjusting
29 charges in a service district, the Service shall [publish notice] **NOTIFY THE RESIDENTS**
30 **OF THE SERVICE DISTRICT BY:**

1. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
NG NOTICE of the proposed charges, at least once a week for 2

1 weeks, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the municipality in which the
2 service district is located and hold a public hearing on the proposed charges; AND

3 **2. USING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:**

4 **A. POSTING THE PROPOSED CHARGES ON THE**
5 **Homepage of the Service Website for at least 2 consecutive weeks;**

6 **B. If the Service District is already established**
7 **and there is a proposed adjustment to charges in the Service District,**
8 **sending an e-mail or a text notification of the proposed charges at**
9 **least once a week for 2 consecutive weeks to all affected ratepayers**
10 **who have provided contact information; or**

11 **C. Providing notice of the proposed charges by**
12 **mail through the United States Postal Service to each affected**
13 **property owner and physical address affected.**

14 (ii) The published notice [shall be at least 1/4 page in size, and use
15 at least 18 point type. The notice may not be placed with legal notices or classified
16 advertisements. The headline of the notice shall be in bold print, with all letters capitalized.
17 The text of the notice, other than the headline, shall be in upper and lower case letters]
18 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)1 OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:**

19 **1. BE PLACED WITH LEGAL NOTICES;**

20 **2. HAVE THE HEADLINE OF THE NOTICE IN BOLD PRINT,**
21 **WITH ALL LETTERS CAPITALIZED; AND**

22 **3. HAVE THE TEXT OF THE NOTICE, OTHER THAN THE**
23 **HEADLINE, IN UPPER AND LOWER CASE LETTERS.**

24 (iii) The charges shall become effective on the date set by the Service.
25 The Service may, by resolution of the Board, provide that the charges are chargeable
26 against all or part of the lots or parcels of land in the service district and constitute a first
27 lien on such property. The resolution may establish reasonable times and methods of
28 collection of the charges, which may be levied and collected by the Service and have the
29 same priority and rights and bear the same interest and penalties and in every respect be
30 treated the same as taxes of the State. The charges may be levied and collected
31 notwithstanding the absence of a contract between the Service and the municipality,
32 person, or property against whom the charge is imposed.

33 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
34 **October 1, 2026.**