

Bill No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George’s County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 **MC/PG 101–17**

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; authorizing the minimum or ready to serve charge to 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 2016 Supplement)

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

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



**Article – Public Utilities**

25–501.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) may be changed as necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

1 25-502.

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

4 (i) a minimum or a ready to serve charge, **WHICH MAY INCLUDE**  
5 **AN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT COMPONENT**; and

6 (ii) a charge for water used.

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
17 1, 2017.