

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 **MC/PG 112–25**

4 FOR the purpose of

5 authorizing the minimum or ready to serve charge to include a
6 certain component; authorizing customer classes under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to the service rates of the Washington
Suburban Sanitary Commission.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Public Utilities

10 25–502(a)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Under current law, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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

1 must establish rates and charges that are uniform throughout the sanitary district; and

2 WHEREAS, the WSSC service rate for water is required to have a minimum or a ready to serve charge (“ready to serve charge”) under §25-502(a) of the Public Utilities Article;

WHEREAS, ready to serve charge has two components: the account maintenance fee and the infrastructure investment fee;

WHEREAS, the Maryland Attorney General opined in 2008 that WSSC had the authority to adopt an infrastructure investment fee in addition to an account maintenance fee;

WHEREAS, WSSC adopted the infrastructure investment fee effective July 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, because of fire code requirements for sprinkler systems in certain homes enacted by Montgomery and Prince George’s County, a small number of residential homes in the sanitary district are required to receive 1 ½ inch meters needed for the water flow of the required sprinkler systems;

WHEREAS, current law requires WSSC to set the ready to serve charges based on meter size and not by customer class such as residential, commercial, or industrial;

WHEREAS, as a result, these residential customers with 1 ½ inch meters pay almost 7 times the amount of the ready to serve charge than other residential customers because of the statutory requirement that this charge be based on meter size;

3 WHEREAS, WSSC desires to correct this inequity by seeking the authority to create customer classes within any given meter size for the ready to serve charge; now, therefore,

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

6 **Article – Public Utilities**

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6 25–502.

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

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

11 (ii) a charge for water used.

12 (2) **(D)** The minimum or ready to serve charge shall be based on the size

13 of the meter on the water connection leading to property

14 . **(II) THE COMMISSION MAY CREATE CUSTOMER CLASSES WITHIN ANY**
GIVEN METER SIZE FOR THE MINIMUM OR READY TO SERVE CHARGE

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

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

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2025.

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