

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 598

(Delegate Carr)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Water and Sewer Service - Billing Period

This bill authorizes a county, municipal corporation, district, or commission that owns or operates a water system to bill for service once every other month. The bill also authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to bill for water and sewer usage charges once every other month.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill authorizes, but does not require, billing on an every other month basis. Therefore, the bill does not require additional local expenditures. The City of Hagerstown, for example, advises that it has no plans to alter its billing procedures under the bill. However, if WSSC or a county, municipal corporation, district, or commission that owns or operates a water system chooses to use the authority provided by the bill, expenditures may increase. For example, WSSC advises that if it begins billing six times per year, rather than four, billing costs increase by about 50%, or by about \$9.1 million. Talbot County advises that if it begins billing on an every month basis, expenditures increase by roughly \$30,000 annually.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A county, municipal corporation, district, or commission that owns or operates a water system must bill for service on a monthly, quarterly, or semiannual basis. WSSC also must bill for the amount of water and sewer usage charges on a monthly, quarterly, or semiannual basis.

Background: Chapter 439 of 2010 (HB 812) authorized a county, municipal corporation, district, or commission that owns or operates a water system to bill for service on a monthly basis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Allegany, Harford, and Talbot counties; City of Hagerstown; Maryland Department of the Environment; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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mc/lgc

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