

HOUSE BILL 975

L5

4lr0580

By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Customer Affordability**
3 **Program**

4 **PG/MC 103–14**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to
6 establish a Customer Affordability Program for a certain purpose; requiring the
7 Commission to establish certain income eligibility standards for certain
8 ratepayers to receive assistance under the Program; requiring certain income
9 eligibility standards to be applied uniformly throughout the Washington
10 Suburban Sanitary District; providing for the funding of the Program; and
11 generally relating to a Customer Affordability Program in the Washington
12 Suburban Sanitary Commission.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Public Utilities
15 Section 25–501
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utilities**

21 25–501.

22 (a) The Commission shall set a service rate that the Commission considers
23 necessary to provide funds for:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

5 (b) The service rate:

6 (1) shall be chargeable against all properties for a connection with any
7 line owned by the Commission;

8 (2) shall be uniform throughout the sanitary district; and

9 (3) may be changed as necessary.

10 (c) (1) **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, THE COMMISSION MAY**
11 **ESTABLISH A CUSTOMER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL**
12 **ASSISTANCE WITH WATER AND SEWER BILLS TO ELIGIBLE RATEPAYERS.**

13 (2) (i) **THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH INCOME**
14 **ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR A RATEPAYER TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL**
15 **ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

16 (ii) **THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED**
17 **UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT THE**
18 **SANITARY DISTRICT.**

19 (3) **THE CUSTOMER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM SHALL BE**
20 **FUNDED FROM COMMISSION REVENUES.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2014.