

Chapter 474

(House Bill 1234)

AN ACT concerning

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Customer ~~Affordability~~
Assistance Program**

MC/PG 107-15

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing~~ requiring the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to establish a Customer ~~Affordability~~ Assistance Program for a certain purpose on or before a certain date; requiring the Commission to establish certain income eligibility standards for certain ratepayers to receive assistance under the Program; requiring certain income eligibility standards to be applied uniformly throughout the Washington Suburban Sanitary District; providing for the funding of the Program; and generally relating to a Customer ~~Affordability~~ Assistance Program in the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Utilities
Section 25-501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Utilities

25-501.

(a) The Commission shall set a service rate 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 service rate:

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

- (2) shall be uniform throughout the sanitary district; and
- (3) may be changed as necessary.

(C) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2015, THE COMMISSION ~~MAY~~ SHALL ESTABLISH A CUSTOMER ~~AFFORDABILITY 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 ~~AFFORDABILITY~~ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED FROM COMMISSION REVENUES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2015~~ June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.