

# HOUSE BILL 527

L2  
HB 1292/15 – HRU

6lr2687

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By: **Delegate Glass**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2016

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County – Department of Public Works – Smart Water Meters**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Harford County Department of Public Works to provide  
4 certain customers with notice of the intention of the Department to install smart  
5 water meters under certain circumstances; establishing a process by which a certain  
6 customer will be deemed to have given permission to the Department to install a  
7 smart water meter on the customer's premises; requiring the Department to pay to  
8 a customer a certain amount if the Department installs a smart water meter on the  
9 customer's premises without permission; requiring the Department to replace a  
10 smart water meter with a standard water meter on a customer's premises under  
11 certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to impose a certain additional  
12 charge for the use of a standard water meter under certain circumstances;  
13 prohibiting the Department from imposing a certain additional charge for the use of  
14 a standard water meter under certain circumstances; providing for the application  
15 of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the installation and use  
16 of smart water meters in Harford County.

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Environment

19 Section 9–1112

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Environment**

25 **9–1112.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
2 **INDICATED.**

3                   **(2) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE HARFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT**  
4 **OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

5                   **(3) “SMART WATER METER” MEANS A WATER METER THAT IS:**

6                           **(I) CAPABLE OF MEASURING AND STORING WATER FLOW DATA**  
7 **IN TIME INTERVALS; AND**

8                           **(II) EQUIPPED FOR TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH A**  
9 **REMOTE LOCATION.**

10                   **(4) “STANDARD WATER METER” MEANS ANY WATER METER OTHER**  
11 **THAN A SMART WATER METER.**

12           **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO HARFORD COUNTY.**

13                   **(C) (1) IF THE DEPARTMENT CHOOSES TO INSTALL SMART WATER**  
14 **METERS IN THE COUNTY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE TO**  
15 **EACH AFFECTED CUSTOMER OF ITS INTENTION TO INSTALL SMART WATER METERS.**

16                           **(2) IN THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
17 **DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE EACH CUSTOMER WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO**  
18 **REFUSE TO PERMIT THE INSTALLATION OF A SMART WATER METER ON THE**  
19 **CUSTOMER’S PREMISES.**

20                           **(3) A CUSTOMER IS DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO THE**  
21 **DEPARTMENT TO INSTALL A SMART WATER METER ON THE CUSTOMER’S PREMISES:**

22                                   **(I) ON RECEIPT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF A RETURNED NOTICE**  
23 **EXPLICITLY GRANTING PERMISSION; OR**

24                                   **(II) IF THE NOTICE IS NOT RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT**  
25 **WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE BY THE CUSTOMER.**

26                           **(4) IF THE DEPARTMENT INSTALLS A SMART WATER METER ON A**  
27 **CUSTOMER’S PREMISES WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE CUSTOMER, THE**  
28 **DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY TO THE CUSTOMER THE SUM OF \$500.**

1           **(D) ON RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN REQUEST OF A CUSTOMER, THE**  
2 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPLACE A SMART WATER METER ON THE CUSTOMER'S**  
3 **PREMISES WITH A STANDARD WATER METER.**

4           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF UP TO \$7**  
5 **PER MONTH FOR THE USE OF A STANDARD WATER METER.**

6           **(F) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
7 **DEPARTMENT MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGES ON A CUSTOMER FOR**  
8 **THE USE OF A STANDARD WATER METER IF THE CUSTOMER PROVIDES TO THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT A NOTE FROM A PHYSICIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE**  
10 **STATE THAT INDICATES THAT THE CUSTOMER OR A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMER'S**  
11 **HOUSEHOLD SUFFERS FROM AN ILLNESS RELATED TO THE EXPOSURE TO RADIO**  
12 **FREQUENCIES.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
14 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
15 application to the installation of smart water meters in Harford County before the effective  
16 date of this Act.

17           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2016.