

Chapter 162

(House Bill 325)

AN ACT concerning

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Indirect Customer Assistance Program

MC/PG 105–19

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to establish an Indirect Customer Assistance Program for certain purposes; requiring the Commission to establish certain eligibility standards and processes for receiving certain assistance if the program is established; requiring the program to be funded from Commission revenues; requiring income eligibility standards for the program to be uniformly applied throughout the sanitary district; defining certain terms; and generally relating to customer assistance and rates of 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 2018 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.

25-501.1.

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

(2) “INDIRECT CUSTOMER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) RECEIVES WATER SERVICE OR SEWER SERVICE OR BOTH FROM THE COMMISSION; BUT

(II) IS NOT BILLED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE SERVICE.

(3) “RATEPAYER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A BILL DIRECTLY FROM THE COMMISSION FOR WATER SERVICE OR SEWER SERVICE OR BOTH.

[(c) (B) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, on or before July 1, 2015, the Commission shall establish a Customer 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 Assistance Program shall be funded from Commission revenues.]

(C) (1) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH AN INDIRECT CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE INDIRECT CUSTOMERS FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.

(3) IF THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES A PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND A PROCESS FOR AN INDIRECT CUSTOMER TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(D) (1) THE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE INDIRECT CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED FROM COMMISSION REVENUES.

(2) INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR THE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE INDIRECT CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT THE SANITARY DISTRICT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.