

# HOUSE BILL 325

L5, C5  
HB 418/18 – ENV

9lr0532

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By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George’s County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2019

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Indirect Customer Assistance**  
3 **Program**

4 **MC/PG 105–19**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to  
6 establish an Indirect Customer Assistance Program for certain purposes; requiring  
7 the Commission to establish certain eligibility standards and processes for receiving  
8 certain assistance if the program is established; requiring the program to be funded  
9 from Commission revenues; requiring income eligibility standards for the program  
10 to be uniformly applied throughout the sanitary district; defining certain terms; and  
11 generally relating to customer assistance and rates of the Washington Suburban  
12 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 2018 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utilities**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 25-501.

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

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

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

8 (b) The service rate:

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

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

12 (3) may be changed as necessary.

13 **25-501.1.**

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

16 **(2) "INDIRECT CUSTOMER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

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

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

20 **(3) "RATEPAYER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A BILL**  
21 **DIRECTLY FROM THE COMMISSION FOR WATER SERVICE OR SEWER SERVICE OR**  
22 **BOTH.**

23 **[(c) (B) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, on or before July 1, 2015, the**  
24 **Commission shall establish a Customer Assistance Program to provide financial assistance**  
25 **with water and sewer bills to eligible ratepayers.**

26 **(2) [(i)] The Commission shall establish income eligibility standards for**  
27 **a ratepayer to receive financial assistance under this subsection.**

28 **[(ii)] The income eligibility standards established under this**  
29 **paragraph shall be applied uniformly throughout the sanitary district.**

1 (3) The Customer Assistance Program shall be funded from Commission  
2 revenues.]

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

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

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2019.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.