

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

Article - Environment

9-662.

(a) For each project that it operates, a district may charge the owners of parcels serviced by or connected to the project:

- (1) A minimum charge; and
- (2) A usage charge that is based on the use of the project by the owner of the parcel.

(b) The district shall use funds received from charges made under this section:

- (1) To operate, maintain, and repair the project;
- (2) To maintain proper depreciation allowances;
- (3) To pay operation expenses of the district;
- (4) To repay advances made by member counties under § 9-628 of this subtitle; and
- (5) To pay the principal and interest on bonds issued under this subtitle.

(c) For water service, the sanitary commission:

- (1) Shall make a minimum charge:
 - (i) That is based on the size of the meter serving the property and is uniform throughout the service area for each size of meter; and
 - (ii) That, for properties to which no meter is connected, is reasonable and uniform throughout the service area; and
- (2) Subject to the meter size and uniformity requirements of this subsection, may change the minimum charge as necessary.

(d) For sewerage service, the sanitary commission shall:

- (1) Make a minimum charge that is reasonable and uniform throughout the service area; and
- (2) Collect, each year, the minimum charge in the same manner as the sanitary commission collects benefit assessments.

(e) If a minimum charge for sewerage service is unpaid, the minimum charge has the same status as an unpaid benefit assessment.

(f) For solid waste disposal systems, the sanitary commission shall make a minimum charge that is reasonable and uniform throughout the service area.