

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3778

To provide for direct billing for water and sanitary sewer furnished to Federal agencies by the District of Columbia, and direct payment by those agencies to the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for direct billing for water and sanitary sewer furnished to Federal agencies by the District of Columbia, and direct payment by those agencies to the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Government
5 Water and Sanitary Sewer Billing and Collection Improve-
6 ment Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT BILLING FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES**
2 **FURNISHED TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

3 (a) WATER SERVICES.—Section 106(b) of the Dis-
4 trict of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954 (sec. 34–
5 2401.25(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(b)(1) Beginning with payments due October 1,
8 2002, the District of Columbia (District) shall bill directly
9 any Department, agency or independent establishment of
10 the United States Government (user agency) for water
11 services furnished to such user agency.

12 “(2) In accordance with the procedures of paragraph
13 (3) of this subsection, on the first day of each fiscal quar-
14 ter, each user agency shall pay directly to the District,
15 from funds specifically appropriated or otherwise available
16 to it, one-fourth (25 percent) of the annual estimate pre-
17 pared by the District. User agencies shall pay the District
18 without further justification.

19 “(3) By April 15 of each calendar year, the District
20 shall provide each user agency, for inclusion in the Presi-
21 dent’s budget of the user agency, an estimate of the cost
22 of service for such user agency for the fiscal year com-
23 mencing October 1st of the following calendar year. The
24 District shall provide the Office of Management and
25 Budget with copies of all estimates provided to user agen-
26 cies. The estimate shall provide the total estimated annual

1 cost of such service and an itemized estimate of such costs
2 for the user agency. The District's estimates on a yearly
3 basis shall reflect such adjustments as are necessary to—

4 “(A) account for actual usage variances from
5 the estimated amounts for the fiscal year ending
6 September 30th of the calendar year preceding April
7 15th; and

8 “(B) reflect changes in rates charged for water
9 and sewer services resulting from public laws or rate
10 covenants pursuant to water and sewer revenue bond
11 sales.

12 The District shall also provide procedures to ensure reso-
13 lution of billing disputes between the District and user
14 agencies.

15 “(4) The amount or time period for late payment of
16 water charges involving a building, establishment, or other
17 place owned by the Federal Government imposed by the
18 District shall not be different from those imposed by the
19 District on its most favored customer.

20 “(5) Not later than the 15th day of the month fol-
21 lowing each quarter, the inspector general of each Federal
22 department, establishment, or agency receiving water serv-
23 ices from the District shall submit a report to the Commit-
24 tees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives
25 and the Senate analyzing the promptness of payment with

1 respect to the services furnished to such department, es-
2 tablishment, or agency.

3 “(6) The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and
4 directed to transfer, from funds available to a user agency,
5 to the United States Treasury account entitled ‘Federal
6 Payment for Water and Sewer Services,’ the amount nec-
7 essary to cover any amounts owed by the user agency for
8 services rendered by the District prior to October 1, 2002.
9 The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the District,
10 from these transferred funds, any amounts owed to the
11 District for Services rendered by the District to the user
12 agency prior to October 1, 2002.

13 “(7) For services rendered to buildings leased or
14 managed by the General Services Administration (GSA),
15 the term ‘user agency’ as used in this subsection shall
16 refer to GSA.”.

17 (b) SANITARY SEWER SERVICES.—Section 212(b) of
18 such Act (sec. 34–2112(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 “(b)(1) Beginning with payments due October 1,
21 2002, the District of Columbia (District) shall bill directly
22 any Department, agency or independent establishment of
23 the United States Government (user agency) for sanitary
24 sewer services furnished to such user agency.

1 “(2) In accordance with the procedures of paragraph
2 (3) of this subsection, on the first day of each fiscal quar-
3 ter, each user agency shall pay directly to the District,
4 from funds specifically appropriated or otherwise available
5 to it, one-fourth (25 percent) of the annual estimate pre-
6 pared by the District. User agencies shall pay the District
7 without further justification.

8 “(3) By April 15 of each calendar year, the District
9 shall provide each user agency, for inclusion in the Presi-
10 dent’s budget of the user agency, an estimate of the cost
11 of service for such user agency for the fiscal year com-
12 mencing October 1st of the following calendar year. The
13 District shall provide the Office of Management and
14 Budget with copies of all estimates provided to user agen-
15 cies. The estimate shall provide the total estimated annual
16 cost of such service and an itemized estimate of such costs
17 for the user agency. The District’s estimates on a yearly
18 basis shall reflect such adjustments as are necessary to—

19 “(A) account for actual usage variances from
20 the estimated amounts for the fiscal year ending
21 September 30th of the calendar year preceding April
22 15th; and

23 “(B) reflect changes in rates charged for water
24 and sewer services resulting from public laws or rate

1 covenants pursuant to water and sewer revenue bond
2 sales.

3 The District shall also provide procedures to ensure reso-
4 lution of billing disputes between the District and user
5 agencies.

6 “(4) The amount or time period for late payment of
7 sanitary sewer charges involving a building, establishment,
8 or other place owned by the Federal Government imposed
9 by the District shall not be different from those imposed
10 by the District on its most favored customer.

11 “(5) Not later than the 15th day of the month fol-
12 lowing each quarter, the inspector general of each Federal
13 department, establishment, or agency receiving sanitary
14 sewer services from the District shall submit a report to
15 the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Senate analyzing the promptness of
17 payment with respect to the services furnished to such de-
18 partment, establishment, or agency.

19 “(6) The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and
20 directed to transfer, from funds available to a user agency,
21 to the United States Treasury account entitled ‘Federal
22 Payment for Water and Sewer Services’, the amount nec-
23 essary to cover any amounts owed by the user agency for
24 services rendered by the District prior to October 1, 2002.
25 The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the District,

1 from these transferred funds, any amounts owed to the
2 District for services rendered by the District to the user
3 agency prior to October 1, 2002.

4 “(7) For services rendered to buildings leased or
5 managed by the General Services Administration, the term
6 ‘user agency’ as used in this subsection shall refer to
7 GSA.”

8 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2002.

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