



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 312
[2017 Assembly Bill 774]

**The Charges, Rules, and Practices
of the Milwaukee Metropolitan
Sewerage District**

2017 Wisconsin Act 312 modifies the authority of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to disconnect from the MMSD sewerage system a city, town, village, sanitary district, or metropolitan sewerage district that receives service from MMSD through a contract (“contract community”), and it modifies the standards that govern the Public Service Commission’s (PSC) review of complaints regarding MMSD’s rates, rules, and practices.

DISCONNECTION

Current law, unchanged by the Act, authorizes MMSD to approve or disapprove any proposed connection with or use of the MMSD sewer system, and it provides that MMSD may not permit any connection to be continued if MMSD finds that any sewer connected is defective in construction, design, supervision, or operation.

The Act provides that MMSD may not disconnect any connection with or use of the MMSD sewerage system by a contract community unless the disconnection is approved by the PSC.

PSC REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS REGARDING MMSD

Current law, unchanged by the Act, provides that, as part of any contract executed between MMSD and a contract community, MMSD may assess reasonable and just sewerage service charges against the contract community with respect to operation, maintenance, and capital costs. Upon complaint, these charges are subject to review by the PSC. In addition, the statutes provide that “any user,” including any owner or occupant of a building or lot in a contract community, may file a complaint with the PSC that charges, rules, or practices of MMSD are unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

The Act repeals provisions of the law that required MMSD charges under review by the PSC to be presumed reasonable, and it specifies that, in reviewing any complaint that MMSD charges, rules, or practices are unreasonable, the PSC must make its determination without deference to MMSD.

Effective date: April 18, 2018.

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