

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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As explained on the Metropolitan Council's Web site, "The sewer availability charge (SAC) is a one-time fee imposed by MCES [Metropolitan Council Environmental Services] to customer communities for each new connection or increase in capacity demand of the Metropolitan Disposal System. The customer communities may pass the SAC fee along with possible local fees to the building or property owners. The SAC fee is usually assigned when a building permit is issued for either a new building or a remodeling permit or when a connection permit is issued for an existing building connecting to the sanitary sewer system for the first time. One SAC unit equals 274 gallons of maximum potential daily wastewater flow capacity. A freestanding, single-family residence is charged one SAC unit, a base unit. Other types of buildings may pay a SAC fee based on the estimated potential capacity of wastewater."

The SAC has been used since 1973 to pay for the reserved capacity built into the sewer system to accommodate growth.

This bill prohibits imposing SAC on a local government for an existing eating or drinking establishment due to an addition or expansion of outdoor seating unless there is also an increase in the number fixtures discharging into the sanitary sewer system or an increase in the capacity of its sewer pipes connected to the sanitary sewer system. Requires the charge to be proportionate to the increase.