



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO):

General Assembly Passes Local WSSC Water Legislation: With just minutes to spare prior to adjournment of Sine Die on Monday, the Senate of Maryland unanimously passed [HB 501 \(MC/PG 102-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Board of Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements – Late Fees** and [HB 789 \(MC/PG 100-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Late Payment Charges**. Both pieces of legislation will be sent to the Governor for his consideration to become law.

The Maryland General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die: On Monday, April 12th at midnight, The Maryland General Assembly adjourned the 442nd Legislative Session *Sine Die*. While pandemic restrictions caused nearly all the legislature's work to be conducted virtually, legislators introduced 2,344 pieces of legislation for consideration during the 90-day Session. The General Assembly will convene for their 443rd Legislative Session at noon on January 12, 2022.

WSSC Water Celebrates Successful Session: WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** had another successful Session with three bills (two local and one statewide) supported by Commission passed and awaiting signature at the Governor's desk. In addition to tracking over 300 bills, they collaborated with trade organizations and stakeholders to advocate for and against several other statewide bills impacting the Commission.

Legislative Updates

Find the final status on WSSC Water-related bills in our [Legislative Update](#).

[HB 501 \(MC/PG 102-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Board of Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements – Late Fees: SUPPORT**. This WSSC Water-sponsored bill will authorize the WSSC Water Board of Ethics to impose a fee to individuals who file late or fail to file a financial disclosure statement. The bill passed unanimously in the House and Senate, and awaits action by the Governor. The law becomes effective June 1, 2021.

[HB 561](#) – **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Wastewater, Thermal, and Other Renewable Sources: SUPPORT**. As amended, HB 561 expands Tier 1 renewable energy sources in the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard to include raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or heat sink for a heating or cooling system, subject to specified requirements. The bill allows producers of energy generated from wastewater heating or cooling systems to receive renewable energy credits. The bill was passed by the General Assembly and awaits action by Governor. The law becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

[HB 789 \(MC/PG 100-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Late Payment Charges: SUPPORT w/ Amendment**. This bill requires the Commission to livestream its open meetings and to maintain a complete and unedited archived recording of each open meeting. Additionally, the bill specifies that financial assistance provided as part of the Customer Assistance Program can include the reduction or waiver of fees, including late fees. The bill passed

unanimously in the House and Senate, and now awaits action by the Governor. The law becomes effective October 1, 2021.

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water FY 2022 Budget and CIP Bi-County Review and Approval

WSSC Water FY 2022 Operating Budget and FY 22-27 CIP are working their way through the Bi-County review and approval process.

- On April 6, the Prince George's County Council held a [Public Hearing](#) on WSSC Water's budget, and on April 8, a [Work Session](#) was held on WSSC Water's Operating Budget/CIP.
- On April 13, the Montgomery County Council reviewed [WSSC Water's FY 22-27 CIP](#) and on April 15, the T&E Committee held a work session on the [FY 2022 Operating Budget](#).
- On May 13, the Montgomery County and Prince George's County Councils will meet to approve the WSSC Water CIP and Operating Budget, as well as any other Bi-County budget issues.

The full budget can be found [here](#).

Going the Distance for Virtual Education

- When schools in Montgomery and Prince George's counties went virtual, WSSC Water seized the opportunity to develop virtual education programs as well.
- Young people are continuing to learn about the value of water. Using online learning platforms, our educational outreach team recreated popular courses and activities.
- These hands-on activities teach students about the water and wastewater processes and introduce them to careers in the water industry.
- Learn more about our virtual education programs at <https://wsscwater.com/distancelearning>.

Calendar

- **April 21, 2021** – WSSC Water Commissioners Meeting. The complete agenda with links to all presentations, as well as the virtual public meeting can be accessed [here](#).
- **July 1, 2021** – Budgetary, tax, and revenue bills take effect
- **October 1, 2021** – Usual effective date for bills
- **January 12, 2022** – 443rd Legislative Session convenes

Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

- [Session Calendar \(PDF\)](#)
- [Track Legislation](#)

[Montgomery County Delegation](#)

[Prince George's County Delegation](#)

Customer Assistance

WSSC Water has enhanced our financial assistance programs to help even more customers. Learn more at [WSSC Water's Customer Assistance Programs](#).

CUSTOMER ADVOCATES:

Our Customer Advocates are in your communities every day, carrying out their mission to serve as liaisons between you and WSSC Water, and ensuring that we are providing a high level of customer service.

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

About IRO

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** team works to promote the *value of water* and the *value of WSSC Water*; engage *federal, state, county and local government* and elected stakeholders and advocate for WSSC Water's strategic interests and priorities; and foster *relationships* with organizations and promote collaborative interests.

In Annapolis, the **IRO** team works with members to support administratively and fiscally responsible legislation, in addition to championing policy that benefits all water utilities throughout Maryland. WSSC Water is committed to increased statewide investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and sound regulatory initiatives.

Meet the IRO Team

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Please click [here](#) for a printable sheet of our key contacts.



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For over 100 years, WSSC Water has proudly served the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery counties – providing drinking water that has always met strict Safe Drinking Water Act standards and protecting the environment through vital water resource recovery services. Our vision is to be THE world-class water utility, where excellent products and services are always on tap. www.wsscwater.com