



Less than one week remains before the General Assembly adjourns *Sine Die* on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Almost 2,500 bills have been introduced during the 2022 Legislative Session.

Earlier this week, the Senate Finance Committee held the bill hearing for HB 526 *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties (PG/MC 109-22)*. The bill has received favorable recommendations from both the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Senate Delegations.

WSSC Water’s **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** advocates for legislation that helps WSSC Water fulfill our mission to provide safe and reliable water, life’s most precious resource, and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable, and financially responsible manner.

*The Annapolis Observer* is IRO’s weekly update on happenings in Annapolis and provides updates on key bills of interest to WSSC Water.

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## Legislative Updates

Please find below the status of the three WSSC Water sponsored bills:

[HB 399](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program – Termination Extension (PG/MC105-22)*, extends the statutory authority for the WSSC Minority Business Enterprise Utilization (MBE) Program for a period of one year ending on June 30, 2023. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the bill was passed by the House of Delegates by a vote of 131-2. The Senate bill hearing before the Budget and Taxation Committee was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. HB 399 has received favorable recommendations from the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Senate Delegations.

[HB 400](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences – Veterans and Their Spouses (PG/MC 106-22)*, repeals the current statute pertaining to the WSSC Water competitive selection process for appointments of veterans and adopts the processes utilized by the State of Maryland. The House of Delegates voted unanimously to pass HB 400 on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The bill hearing before the Senate Finance Committee was held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. HB 399 has received favorable recommendations from the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Senate Delegations.

[HB 526](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties (PG/MC 109-22)*, authorizes WSSC Water, in addition to other penalties, to impose a penalty not exceeding \$5,000 for each violation to persons who violate provisions of the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code or State Law. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the bill was passed by the House of Delegates by a vote of 122-15. The Senate bill hearing before the Finance Committee was held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. HB 526 has received favorable recommendations from the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Senate Delegations.

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

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# Around WSSC Water

## WSSC Water Releases Annual Water Quality Report

WSSC Water's 2021 Water Quality Report is now available. The report provides customers with important information about the source of their drinking water, how it is purified, as well as detailed water quality data.

The 2021 Water Quality Report is available online at [wsscwater.com/wqr](http://wsscwater.com/wqr). Customers may also request a hard copy of the report by calling WSSC Water's Communications and Community Relations Office at 301-206-8100 or via email at [communications@wsscwater.com](mailto:communications@wsscwater.com).

## Wastewater Management

Providing you with safe, clean drinking water is only part of our commitment. We also promise to treat the water you've used, and return clean water to the environment. Learn more in our [overview of wastewater](#) and how we monitor it to ensure that pollutant levels in the water being returned to the environment meet federal, state, and local standards for water quality protection.

## Emergency Work in Your Area

We're committed to protecting our natural resources, close to home and around the world. WSSC Water has adopted a goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent every five years through 2050, for a total reduction of 80 percent below the baseline year of 2005. In the past decade, WSSC Water's Energy Management Program has resulted in annual cost savings of \$3.5 to \$4 million. Read more about how [environmental stewardship](#) guides us in all aspects of our work.

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## Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

WSSC Water remains committed to making water/sewer bills more affordable. We want to do everything in our power to help you avoid a water service turnoff and ensure our safe, clean water continues to flow to your tap. Learn more at [WSSC Water's Customer Assistance Programs](#).

Customers may also help by making a tax-deductible donation to [The Water Fund](#) to help more neighbors have access to clean, safe water. Since 1994, the fund has helped nearly 20,000 people throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Water Fund is administered by The Salvation Army. Every dollar of your donation goes directly to local families who need financial assistance paying their water/sewer bills. Click [here](#) to learn more and donate online.

## 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.

*Northern Prince George's County (areas north of Central Avenue, MD 214)*

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

- April 4, 2022 – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
  - April 11, 2022 – Sine Die
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## Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

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

[Montgomery County Delegation](#)

[Prince George's County Delegation](#)

[Maryland Association of Counties](#)

[Maryland Municipal League](#)

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## 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.

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## Meet the IRO Team

**Karyn Riley, Esq.** – *IRO Director*

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## Contact Us

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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](http://www.wsscwater.com)