



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

Governor Larry Hogan delivered his eighth and final [State of the State Address](#) on Wednesday, February 2nd where he reflected on his accomplishments over the past 7 years, the administration’s COVID response and the State’s economic recovery. During his speech in the Old Senate Chamber, Governor Hogan outlined his [priorities](#) for the 2022 Legislative Session.

As Senators and Delegates hurry to finalize legislative proposals before the bill introduction dates on February 4th and 11th in their respective chambers, lawmakers have proposed 1,546 bills for consideration to date.

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.

Legislative Updates

As all three WSSC Water sponsored bills have passed unanimously out of the House Delegations of Montgomery and Prince George’s counties; they are now scheduled to be heard in the assigned House standing committees. Please see the bill hearing schedule below:

[HB 399 \(PG/MC 105-22\)](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program – Termination Extension*. House Health and Government Operations Committee on 2/8/2022 at 3:00 PM

[HB 400 \(PG/MC 106-22\)](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences – Veterans and Their Spouses*. House Environment and Transportation Committee on 2/15/2022 at 1:00 PM

[HB 526 \(PG/MC 109-22\)](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties*. House Economic Matters Committee on 2/22/2022 at 1:00 PM

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

Around WSSC Water

Residents Should Prepare for More Water Main Breaks as Potomac River Temperature Hits New Seasonal Low

Montgomery and Prince George’s County residents should prepare for increased water main breaks and leaks as the [Potomac River hits a new low temperature this winter](#). The river temperature has dropped about 18 degrees since the beginning of January.

As a reminder, WSSC Water maintains the pipes in the streets and the connections up to the property line. If a pipe in a home freezes, it is the homeowner's responsibility to repair. Residents are urged to visit www.wsscwater.com/winterready to learn tips on what they can do to help winterize their homes, or to prepare for the sudden loss of water due to a break.

There are three simple ways to report a break or leak to WSSC Water's 24-hour Emergency Services Center - By phone: 301.206.4002; by email: emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com and via [WSSC Water's Mobile App](#).

WSSC Water February Commission Meeting

The monthly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 starting at 10 a.m. Access the link and agenda [here](#).

The [meeting will be virtual](#); however, interested stakeholders can provide input during the public comment portion of the meeting by calling 240.800.7929/Conference ID: 306 934 407#. The public comment period will start shortly after 10 a.m.

Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

Sadly, approximately one in five customers is past due on their bills. WSSC Water remains committed to making water and sewer bills more affordable by offering financial assistance programs. We want to help customers 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](#).

You 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)

David Wilkins

David.Wilkins@wsscwater.com

301-648-6953

Southern Prince George's County (areas south of Central Avenue, MD 214)

Stephen Billingsley

Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com

240-444-5803

Montgomery County

Brandon Stewart

Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com

301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- February 7, 2022 – Senate Bill Introduction Date
- February 7, 2022 – Prince George's County Delegation Late-file Bill Hearing
- February 11, 2022 – House Bill Introduction Date

- March 21, 2022 – Crossover
 - April 11, 2022 – Sine Die
-

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](#)

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

Karyn Riley, Esq. – *IRO Director*

Karyn.Riley@wsscwater.com

Guy Andes – *Government Affairs Manager*

State Affairs and Prince George's County Affairs

Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com

Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Manager*

Municipal Affairs and Montgomery County Affairs

Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com

Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*

Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com

Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

iro@wsscwater.com

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





Subscribe to the Annapolis Observer here!

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