



Friday, February 25, 2022 marked the halfway point of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Legislators have 45 days to deliberate over the 2,455 bills that have been introduced to date and pass a balanced budget of the 2023 Fiscal Year before they adjourn *Sine Die* on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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*, 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, 2022, the bill was passed in the House of Delegates by a vote of 131-2. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration where it has been assigned to the Budget and Taxation Committee.

[HB 400](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences – Veterans and Their Spouses*, 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 bill has unanimously passed out of the House Delegations of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The House Environment and Transportation Committee held their bill hearing for HB 400 on 2/15/2022.

[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. The bill has unanimously passed out of the House Delegations of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The House Economic Matters Committee held their bill hearing for HB 526 on 2/22/2022.

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

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## Around WSSC Water

### Did You Receive An Estimated Bill?

Residential customers with inside water meters will sometimes receive an estimated bill when a WSSC Water meter reader cannot obtain a water usage reading. The estimate is

based on the usage during the same time the previous year.

When we are unable to capture an actual meter reading, we ask that the customer submit a meter reading so they may receive a bill that is based on their actual usage. There are several ways to submit a meter reading:

- Through the MyWSSCWater portal. Just [log in](#) to enter the meter reading.
- Via our 24/7 automated Interactive Voice Response System at 301-206-4001, or toll free at 1-800-634-8400. *Be sure to have the WSSC Water account number handy.*
- Call Customer Service at 301-206-4001, or toll free 1-800-634-8400 to speak to a customer service advisor.
- Email a picture of your meter reading to [customerservice@wsscwater.com](mailto:customerservice@wsscwater.com). Be sure to include the account number and the service address in the subject line or body of the email.

For more information on submitting a meter reading, please visit [wsscwater.com/meter](http://wsscwater.com/meter).

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can the Grease:** Please do your part by disposing of fats, oils and grease [the proper way](#). Food Service Establishments Questions: 301-206-8719; Residential Can the Grease Information: 301-206-4001.
- **Conservation Tips:** Now, more than ever, it's important to be mindful of your water usage inside and outside the home. Learn some [quick tips](#) on how to save water.
- **Residential Tips:** Please click [here](#) to get tips on handling issues in and around your home or neighborhood.
- **Gas Appliance FAQs:** Have questions about that new gas appliance? Why do you need to have it inspected by us? These and more questions are answered [here](#).

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## 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**

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301-648-6953

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

**Stephen Billingsley**

Montgomery County

**Brandon Stewart**

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

- March 21, 2022 – Crossover
  - April 3, 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)