



Lawmakers are in the midst of their own version of March Madness as they have been moving with urgency to get bills passed prior to Crossover on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after Monday will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction. So far, 2,497 bills have been introduced during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

Earlier this week, the House of Delegates passed HB 526 *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties (PG/MC 109-22)* by a vote of 122 to 15. This bill 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 is now before the Senate for consideration and has been assigned to the Finance Committee.

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 bill has moved to the Senate for consideration, where it has been assigned to the Budget and Taxation Committee. The Senate bill hearing has not yet been scheduled.

[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 is now in the Senate where it has been assigned to the Finance Committee. The Senate bill hearing has not yet been scheduled.

[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 bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, where it has been assigned to the Finance Committee. The Senate bill hearing has not yet been scheduled.

## Around WSSC Water

### Regina Y. Speed-Bost Appointed as Newest WSSC Water Commissioner

On March 16, 2022, WSSC Water welcomed Regina Y. Speed-Bost as the newest member of the Board of Commissioners representing Prince George's County.

Ms. Speed-Bost is a Professional Lecturer in Law at the George Washington University Law School, where she teaches energy law and regulation. She brings 30 years of experience in energy law with vast knowledge of utilities and companies that engage in regulated activities in the U.S.

For more information on Ms. Speed-Bost and the other WSSC Water Commissioners, please visit our [Governance Page](#).

### 2022 Watershed Season

Boating and fishing on the reservoirs resumed on March 15, 2022. Gates open ½ hour before sunrise, but if you arrive and a gate is not open, please call WSSC Water Police at 301-206-8888.

From mid-May through October, a sediment removal project is tentatively scheduled at the Triadelphia Reservoir. During that time, **all boat ramps will be closed, and boating will not be allowed**. In addition, the Greenbridge and Pig Tail recreational areas will also be closed. All other recreation areas on Triadelphia Reservoir will remain open. For additional information please visit [wsscwater.com/watershed](http://wsscwater.com/watershed).

Permits can be purchased [online](#) or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center or at WSSC Water's headquarters. All boat mooring permits must be purchased in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center. If you have any questions, please contact [Watershedrec@WSSCWater.com](mailto:Watershedrec@WSSCWater.com).

### Patuxent Watershed Protectors

Calling all environmental champions and water recreation enthusiasts! Become a Patuxent Watershed Protector and help keep the land around our two drinking water reservoirs on the Patuxent River trash-free!

This program is ideal for community organizations, youth and scout groups, corporations, or any family looking to get outside and take action to protect the land and water resources of the Patuxent River Reservoirs and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Groups volunteer from mid-March through early December to pick up trash along the shoreline, in parking lots and picnic areas at a location of their choosing. Find out how you can be a watershed protector at [wsscwater.com/protectors](http://wsscwater.com/protectors).

### WSSC Water Commissioners' Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

WSSC Water offers annual scholarships to college students majoring in engineering fields vital to its mission. Named in honor of former Commissioners Joyce Starks and Gene W. Counihan, the scholarship program provides financial assistance to students in WSSC Water's service area who are studying engineering in order to encourage applicants/winners to consider careers in the water and water resource recovery industry – preferably, at WSSC Water.

Up to two new scholarships for \$2,000 each may be awarded: one each to a Prince George's County resident and to a Montgomery County resident. Winners are eligible for additional awards of \$2,000 each year for up to four consecutive years as long as they

meet residency and grade point average (GPA) requirements. Winners also receive priority consideration for paid summer internship opportunities at WSSC Water. The application deadline is March 31, 2022.

Get complete details and application requirements at [wsscwater.com/scholarship](https://wsscwater.com/scholarship).

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## 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

- 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)