



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

WSSC Water Legislation Passes in the House: On March 18, 2021, The House of Delegates unanimously passed the two local bills pertaining to WSSC Water: [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**. With 3 weeks remaining in the Legislative Session, these bills now move to the Senate for final consideration.

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** will continue to advocate for legislation that supports WSSC Water's 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. IRO looks at all legislation that impacts WSSC Water's administrative, operational and financial capability.

The Annapolis Observer is **IRO's** weekly update on happenings in Annapolis and highlights the progress of key bills of interest to WSSC Water, as well as other information.

Legislative Updates

Find the status of and position 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**. The Montgomery County House Delegation and Prince George's County House Delegation unanimously passed this bill. 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 House unanimously passed HB 501 on March 18, 2021. The bill now moves to the Senate for final consideration.

[HB 561](#) – **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Wastewater, Thermal, and Other Renewable Sources: SUPPORT**. HB 561 expands Tier 1 renewable energy sources in the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard to include: methane from the anaerobic decomposition or organic materials in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant used to generate electricity, thermal energy, or mechanical energy; and raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or sink for a heating or cooling system. The bill also allows producers of energy generated from wastewater heating or cooling systems to receive renewable energy credits. The House Economic Matters Committee held the bill hearing for HB 561 on January 29th. No vote has been taken.

[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. Staff thanks the bill sponsor for the opportunity to work with them to address our concerns. The bill has unanimously passed the Montgomery County House and Senate Delegations, and the Prince George's County House Delegation. The House unanimously passed HB 789 on

Around WSSC Water

Cabin Fever? Time to Explore the Outdoors!

Permits Now Available For WSSC's Beautiful Patuxent Watershed Recreation Area

Warmer weather has arrived and WSSC Water's 4,000-acre Patuxent watershed offers tons of outdoor fun to help crush your cabin fever. Just don't forget your permit! Visitors to WSSC Water's eight recreational areas and reservoirs will need one to enjoy boating, hiking, horseback riding, fishing and picnicking.

All visitors 16 years or older must have a valid permit, which can be purchased online at wsscwater.com/watershed or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center, located at 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookville, Maryland 20833. Visitors wishing to purchase a permit or boat mooring stake in person are asked to call 301-206-4FUN for an appointment to help minimize visitor wait time and reduce the number of people in close proximity.

The 2021 season opens following almost a full year of complimentary access to the watershed's outdoor recreation areas to provide families a reprieve from being indoors during the state and county stay-at-home orders and social distancing guidance.

Complimentary permits are available for visitors 65 years of age or older, active military and disabled veterans. Watershed users who purchased their 2020 permits prior to WSSC Water closing the watershed due to Covid-19 will receive complimentary 2021 permits.

WSSC Water strongly encourages all visitors to follow CDC guidelines. Since the recreation areas span several Maryland counties, visitors must adhere to all state and local social gathering guidelines.

Calendar

- March 22 – Crossover. Opposite Chamber bills received after this date are subject to referral to Rules Committees.
 - April 5 – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
 - April 12 – 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](#)

Customer Assistance

[WSSC Water's Customer Assistance Programs](#)

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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