



With Crossover having passed on March 21st, lawmakers are laser focused on getting their bills through the legislative process before the General Assembly adjourns *Sine Die* on April 11th. There have been 2,497 bills introduced thus far during the 2022 Legislative Session.

Earlier this week, the Senate Budget and Taxation, and Finance Committees, respectively, held their bill hearings for HB 399 *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program – Termination Extension PG/MC 105-22 – Termination Extension*, and HB 400 *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences – Veterans and Their Spouses PG/MC 106-22*. These bills have 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.

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 24th, 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 23rd. HB 399 has received favorable recommendation 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 9th. The Senate bill before the Finance Committee was held on March 24th. HB 399 has received favorable recommendation 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 17th, the bill was passed by the House of Delegates by a vote of 122-15. The Senate Finance Committee will hold their bill hearing for HB 526 on March 29th. The Montgomery County Senate Delegation issued a favorable recommendation for HB 526.

The Prince George's County Senate Delegation will meet on April 1st to consider their recommendation.

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

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship – Application Deadline is March 31st

The deadline to apply to WSSC Water's 2022 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship is March 31st. This scholarship seeks to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry. Scholarship winners receive \$2,000 per year and up to \$8,000 over four consecutive years.

The scholarship is open to students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's County who are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. High school seniors already accepted into an engineering program are also eligible. Winners also receive priority consideration for paid summer internship opportunities at WSSC Water. For complete details and application requirements at wsscwater.com/scholarship.

Identifying WSSC Water Employees

We want you to be assured that someone who says they are a WSSC Water employee is in fact one of our workers. To identify our employees, ask to see their **Employee Identification Badge**.

WSSC Water employees rarely need to enter your home, but when we do, we will schedule an appointment with you. We will never ask to enter your home without you expecting us.

Please call WSSC Water Police at 301-206-8888, if you see suspicious activity by someone who says they are a WSSC Water employee. If for any reason you fear for your safety, please call 911. For more information on tips on how to identify our employees, please visit wsscwater.com/identification.

Emergency Work in Your Area

View our [interactive map](#) to see emergency water main repair work near you. This map shows the location of water mains currently being repaired. The information is updated every 15 minutes. Customers are also encouraged to sign up for WSSC Water's [Customer Notification System \(CNS\)](#) to receive texts or email alerts about WSSC Water related work.

Water Service Line Emergency Replacement Loan Program or PipeER

PipeER provides a loan to finance the replacement of a leaking residential water service line. Qualified customers are eligible to receive a loan up to \$5,000. PipeER is administered by the WSSC Federal Credit Union (WSSC FCU) in partnership with WSSC Water.

This loan program makes \$100,000 available annually to customers. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, each fiscal year until the fund is depleted. Any funds remaining on July 1 each year are donated to [The WSSC Water Fund](#), which helps WSSC Water customers pay their water and sewer bills.

For more information and to begin your application process, contact WSSC FCU at 240.459.8022 or online at www.wsscfcu.org/pipeER.

Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

WSSC Water remains committed to making water/sewer bills more affordable. Despite significant cuts to our current budget, we increased the funding to help financially vulnerable customers. Our FY 2023 budget includes \$3.5 million (a \$200,000 increase from the current budget) to enhance our financial assistance programs. 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)

David Wilkins

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301-648-6953

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

Stephen Billingsley

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Montgomery County

Brandon Stewart

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- April 3, 2022 – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
- 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

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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