



Legislators continue their work deliberating over the 2,476 bills introduced thus far during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Committee Reporting Courtesy Date is March 15th, and Standing Committees are encouraged to report their chamber's bills to their respective floor by this date if they wish for them to be passed by Crossover on March 21st. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after this date will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction.

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*, 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 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](#).

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water Customer Service One-Stop Shop Reopens to Public

Our Customer Service One-Stop Shop reopened today for in-person services. If you need to do business with us, come on in! Customer Service Advisors will be available to answer billing-related questions and help financially struggling customers establish convenient payment plans and identify [affordability programs](#) that best meet their needs. We are here weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only checks or cash are accepted at the cashier window. Credit card payments are accepted online or via phone.

Permit Services and Plan Review Services will also reopen with limited staff. To submit a permit or learn more about connecting to WSSC Water's system, customers are strongly encouraged to visit our [Permit Services Page](#).

Please click [here](#) for more detailed information on the services included.

WSSC Water Commissioners' Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

WSSC Water has launched its 2022 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship 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.

The **application deadline is Thursday, March 31, 2022**. Get complete details and application requirements at wsscwater.com/scholarship.

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

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Montgomery County

Brandon Stewart

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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](#)

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*

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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