



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

Slow Down in WSSC Water and Other Utility Work Zones: Last week, a speeding vehicle entered a WSSC Water work zone and injured 4 individuals – 1 WSSC Water employee and 3 WSSC Water contractors. While these were non-life threatening, this incident serves as a reminder that State law requires vehicles to slow down and/or move over when approaching utility work zones and service vehicles displaying flashing lights.

WSSC Water Sponsored Legislation Moves Forward: The House Environment and Transportation Committee voted unanimously for a FAVORABLE report for [HB 501 \(MC/PG 102-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Board of Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements – Late Fees**. This bill authorizes the WSSC Board of Ethics to impose a late fee to individuals who fail to file timely financial disclosures. HB 789 now moves to the House floor for consideration and final vote.

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 Environment and Transportation Committee unanimously voted FAVORABLE on HB 501 on March 5, 2021.

[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 29, 2021. 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**. 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 Environment and Transportation Committee held a bill hearing for HB 789 on March 2, 2021.

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water: Delivering the Essential

Each year, WSSC Water field staff work tirelessly to ensure we continuously provide clean safe drinking water and sewer services to 1.8M (and growing) customers in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. In commemoration of their efforts, we would like to recognize and thank those men and women who are on the front-line daily.

Please watch [this video](#) of WSSC Water employees in action. This video just provides a glimpse into all the hard work and dedication by our front-line workers, in often grueling conditions, working together to get the job done. WSSC Water is "here to help".

WSSC Water March Commission Meeting

WSSC Water Commissioners will hold their next monthly meeting Wednesday, March 17 starting at 10 a.m. The complete agenda with links to all presentations, as well as the virtual public meeting can be accessed [here](#).

As with previous virtual Commission meetings, there will be a call-in option to ensure interested stakeholders can provide input during the meeting. The public comment period starts shortly after 10 a.m.

*Call-in number to provide comment: 240-800-7929. **Conference ID:** 581 686 546#*

As part of WSSC Water's commitment to public engagement and transparency, the live broadcast of this meeting allows viewers to observe agency business, including the review of contracts and policies, and a monthly synopsis of WSSC Water's operations.

Calendar

- March 22 – Crossover. Opposite Chamber bills received after this date are subject to referral to Rules Committees.
 - 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: www.wsscwater.com/advocates

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