



****Update: The Conference ID for the public comment section of the Commission Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 was incorrect. The proper Conference ID is 533 588 177#**

A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO): Subcommittee Votes to Move WSSC Water Transparency Bill Forward: The House Environment and Transportation's Local Government and Bi-County Subcommittee voted unanimously for a FAVORABLE report for [HB 789 \(MC/PG 100-21\)](#) – **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Late Payment Charges**. 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. HB 789 now moves to the full committee 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's Local Government and Bi-County Subcommittee unanimously voted FAVORABLE on HB 789 on March 11, 2021.

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water Accepting Applications for 2021 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship

Applications are now available for the 2021 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship. The scholarship, which provides \$2,000 per year, supports WSSC Water's ongoing efforts to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry.

The scholarship is open to students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. High school seniors accepted into an engineering program are also eligible. The application deadline is Thursday, April 15, 2021.

Two scholarships of \$2,000 each (one for each county) may be awarded. Recipients are eligible for additional \$2,000 awards for up to four consecutive years (up to \$8,000), which may include post-graduate studies in engineering. Scholarship recipients also are given priority consideration for WSSC Water's paid summer internship positions while enrolled in school.

In addition to an essay, applicants must include an introductory video and proof of residency in WSSC Water's service district. Get complete details and application requirements at www.wsscwater.com/scholarship.

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: 533 588 177#***

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 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](#)

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