



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Friday, February 24th marked the halfway point for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Session; to date, 2,232 bills have been introduced. Senate President Bill Ferguson marked the occasion by delivering a mid-session update and shared a look ahead at the remaining 45 days of the legislative session. Ferguson mentioned the historic number of bond bill requests and the need to remain focused on the State's core services first. He also stated that revenue estimates will be announced very soon, and that tough choices remain ahead.

In the coming days, lawmakers will be working hard to pass bills out of their respective chambers prior to the March 20th Crossover Date. In addition to vetting bills, the budgetary committees continue to host budget briefings as they work to pass a balanced budget for the upcoming 2024 fiscal year.

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** is on the front-line advocating for legislation that impacts our work. **IRO** covers a variety of subject matters and focuses on 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 highlights the progress of key bills of interest to WSSC Water, as well as provide timely updates and calendar of important dates.

Legislative Updates

WSSC Water has proposed one bill for the 2023 Legislative Session. [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program - Revisions and Extension. This bill updates, modernizes, streamlines, and strengthens provisions pertaining to WSSC Water's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Utilization Program, including extending the Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion's statutory authority to have an MBE program for five (5) years, ending on June 30, 2028.

The Prince George's County House Delegation unanimously passed [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) with amendments on February 24th. As amended, the bill alters the definition of "minority business enterprise" (MBE) to be consistent with the definition in State finance and procurement law. It also enumerates findings by the General Assembly based on review of WSSC Water's Disparity Study that revealed substantial and statistically significant adverse effects on minority-owned and women-owned businesses. The bill extends the statutory authority to conduct the MBE program until June 30, 2028.

The bill now moves to the Montgomery County House Delegation for their consideration.

WSSC Water will continue to champion policies that provide safe and reliable water and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable and financially responsible manner.

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

Around WSSC Water

EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER PROBLEMS

Have a water or sewer emergency, or need to report a suspected water main break? We are available 24/7 to receive calls. There are three simple ways to report it to WSSC Water's 24-hour Emergency Services Center:

- By phone: 301-206-4002
- By email: emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com
- Via [WSSC Water's Mobile App](#)

The *Report a Problem* feature on the mobile app allows customers to easily snap a picture of a possible water main break or leak and send it directly to the Emergency Services Center. The app uses GPS to pinpoint the location of the image, which allows dispatchers to send an inspector to the site.

Report A Problem



301-206-4002



**EmergencyCallCenter
@wsscwater.com**



**WSSC Water
Mobile App**



WSSCWaterNews



WSSCWater



WSSCWater



WSSCVideos

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CNS)

Sign up for our Customer Notification System (CNS) and never be in the dark about water main repairs and water emergencies in your neighborhood. CNS alerts you about our work in your area that may affect your service or daily routine. Once you sign up, you will receive email or text alerts about water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, road or lane closures caused by WSSC Water work, boil water advisories and occasionally, other important messages from us.

For more details as well as how to create the account, please visit wsscwater.com/cns. The service is free; however, your cell phone provider's standard text messaging charges do apply.



EXPERIENCING LONGER THAN USUAL WAIT TIMES?

If you are experiencing longer than usual wait times, [#LoseTheWait](#). We have several fast and easy options available for contacting us without having to wait. WSSC Water is here to help!

- Online at wsscwater.com/heretohelp for bill payment, meter readings, account information, and start/stop service
- By phone at 301-206-4002, our 24/7 Interactive Voice Response System
- Via [WSSC Water's Mobile App](#)

WSSC WATER
DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL

Avoid being on hold,
try these fast and easy options

Online
wsscwater.com/heretohelp
• Bill Payment • Account Information
• Meter Readings • Stop/Start Service

Voice Response System
301-206-4001
• Bill Payment • Account Information
• Meter Readings

App
wsscwater.com
• Bill Payment • Account Information

#LOSETHEWAIT

Account number required for all transactions

Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

WSSC Water remains committed to making water/sewer bills more affordable. 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

David.Wilkins@wsscwater.com

301-648-6953

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

Stephen Billingsley

Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com

240-444-5803

Montgomery County

Brandon Stewart

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

March 2, 2023 - Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Work Session - 9:00 am

March 20, 2023: Crossover

April 10, 2023: 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

Guy Andes – Acting Director
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Monica Marquina – Government Affairs Manager
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Terry Walker-Morris – Administrative Professional
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Contact Us

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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

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