



## A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Lawmakers are feverishly deliberating over the 2,272 bills introduced thus far during the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Committee Reporting Courtesy Date is March 14th, 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 20th. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after this date will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction.

On Friday, March 10th, the Maryland Board of Revenue Estimates voted to [lower FY23 state revenue projections by \\$77.4 million](#). The Board, which consists of Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Treasurer Dereck Davis, and Budget Secretary Helene Grady, also lowered revenue projections for FY24 by \$400.3 million. Maryland is currently underperforming in comparison to other states, specifically in consumer spending and employment.

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.

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## 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.

On March 10th, the Montgomery County House Delegation unanimously passed [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#). The bill now awaits a recommendation from the House Health and Government Operations Committee who held their public bill hearing on March 6th.

The Prince George's County House Delegation voted unanimously to amend and pass [HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#) on March 10th. As amended, this bill authorizes WSSC Water to enter into contracts with the District of Columbia or the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a water supply, sewer, or drainage system for certain property located within a regional transit district in Prince George's County. This legislation was introduced at the request of the County Executive. The bill now moves to the Montgomery County House Delegation for 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](#).

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## Around WSSC Water

### WSSC WATER MARCH COMMISSION MEETING

WSSC Water will hold its monthly Commission Meeting on March 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. 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. The complete agenda with links to all presentations, public viewing and participation details may 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 will take place shortly after the meeting starts. *Call-in number to provide comment: 1-240-800-7929 / Conference ID: 664 650 455#*

### IDENTIFYING WSSC WATER EMPLOYEES

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. To help identify our employees, ask to see their Employee Identification Badge and know who is at your door, in your office or on your property.

If you think you see suspicious activity by someone who says they are a WSSC Water employee, or a WSSC Water vehicle, call WSSC Water Police at 301-206-8888. If for any reason you fear for your safety, call 911. Please visit [wsscwater.com/identification](https://wsscwater.com/identification) for more tips on identifying our employees.

### DID YOU RECEIVE AN ESTIMATED BILL?

Estimated bills are given when WSSC Water is unable to capture an actual reading. The estimated bill is based on your historical usage during the same time last year. Customers who receive an estimated bill may be able submit an actual reading.

If you have a water meter inside your home, but is unsure about how to read it or where it is located, please watch the video below to be guided through the simple process. More information is also available at [wsscwater.com/meter](https://wsscwater.com/meter), or call 301-206-4001 for more information.



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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com)

240-444-5803

*Montgomery County*

**Brandon Stewart**

[Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com](mailto:Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com)

301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

- **March 20, 2023:** Crossover
  - **April 10, 2023:** 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](#)

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## 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.

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## Meet the IRO Team

**Guy Andes** – *Acting Director*

[Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com](mailto:Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com)

**Monica Marquina** – *Government Affairs Manager*

[Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com](mailto:Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com)

**Terry Walker-Morris** – *Administrative Professional*

[Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com](mailto:Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com)

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## Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

[iro@wsscwater.com](mailto:iro@wsscwater.com)

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](http://www.wsscwater.com)

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

[Unsubscribe leslie.allen@wsscwater.com](mailto:leslie.allen@wsscwater.com)

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