

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1142

(Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's  
County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

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**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Motions**  
**MC/PG 121-09**

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This bill prohibits a motion before the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) from being adopted without receiving a majority vote of the commissioners that includes at least one commissioner appointed from Montgomery County and one commissioner appointed from Prince George's County.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** WSSC can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A board of six commissioners directs WSSC, three appointed by the Prince George's County Executive and confirmed by the Prince George's County Council, and three appointed by the Montgomery County Executive and confirmed by the Montgomery County Council. Commissioners serve four-year staggered terms.

WSSC board meetings follow procedures outlined in the commission by-laws. Any vote of the commissioners requires that a quorum is present (four of six commissioners) and that a majority of those in attendance vote for the motion.

**Background:** WSSC is the eighth largest water and wastewater utility in the country, providing water and sewer services to 1.8 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It has over 460,000 customer accounts, serves an area of around 1,000 square miles, and currently employs more than 1,500 people. The agency operates four reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, the Blue Plains Water Pollution Control Plant handles as much as 169 million gallons per day under a cost sharing agreement with WSSC. The agency maintains nearly 5,500 miles of water main lines and over 5,300 miles of sewer main lines.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 28, 2009  
ncs/mwc

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