

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 642

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Sewage Leaks - Posting  
Requirements  
MC/PG 114-13**

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This bill requires the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), within 24 hours after a leak is reported, to post warning signs at each public access point to a waterway that becomes contaminated by a leak in a sanitary sewer line, pipe, or fixture that is connected to the sanitary sewer system. A posted warning sign must include: (1) the source and date of discovery of the leak; and (2) contact information, including a telephone number, for the general public to obtain additional information from the commission. WSSC must post the warning signs downstream from the leak in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission and is not required to post any warning sign upstream from the leak. WSSC is required to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill, including regulations concerning the minimum distance from the source of a leak within which warning signs must be posted and the form and content of the warning signs. A public access point includes a parking lot, picnic area, boat launching ramp, or a park.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill's requirements do not differ substantially from WSSC's current practices and procedures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Background:** WSSC is among the largest water and wastewater utilities 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 commission operates three reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants. The six wastewater treatment facilities, as well as the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, handle as much as 180 million gallons of wastewater per day. The commission maintains nearly 5,600 miles of water main lines and over 5,400 miles of sewer main lines.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2013  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2013

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