

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 355

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

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Discrimination - Prohibited
MC/PG 102-17**

This bill prohibits the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) from discriminating against a person on the basis of religion, marital status, or gender identity. In addition, the bill prohibits the WSSC from awarding a contract unless the contract prohibits the contractor from discriminating in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment on the basis of religion, marital status, or gender identity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect WSSC's operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: WSSC is prohibited from discriminating against a person on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. Additionally, WSSC currently may not award a contract unless the contract prohibits the contractor from discriminating in any manner against an employee or an applicant for employment on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or national origin.

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 more than 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 more than 200 million gallons of wastewater per day. The commission maintains nearly 5,600 miles of water main lines and nearly 5,500 miles of sewer main lines.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510