

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 417

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

Environment and Transportation

Finance

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Funding Accountability and
Transparency Act**
PG/MC 111-18

This bill requires the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to develop and operate a single searchable website accessible to the public at no cost by July 1, 2020. The website must contain WSSC payment data including the name and location of each payee and the amount of the payment. A payee is defined as a person that receives from WSSC an aggregate payment of \$25,000 in a single fiscal year, not including employees or retirees of WSSC. The website must allow the user to search data beginning for fiscal 2019 by the name of the payee or the location of the payee. Disclosure of information required by law to be kept confidential is not to be included.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The required website can be created with WSSC's existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: WSSC reports that Section 2-11 of the commission's Code of Ethics requires the commission to publish an alphabetized list of nongovernment entities receiving

aggregate payments of \$5,000 or greater during the preceding calendar year by March 1 of each year. This list is published and available for public review on WSSC website.

In addition, WSSC is required to (1) publish annually in at least one newspaper in Montgomery County and one newspaper in Prince George's County a copy of its current financial statement; (2) employ a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State to audit its books and accounts; (3) make available for public inspection during business hours at its principal office the annual audit and current financial statement; and (4) file a certified copy of its annual audit and current financial statement annually with the county executives and county councils of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as to each county's Senate and House delegations to the Maryland General Assembly.

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 approximately 475,000 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 more than 5,700 miles of water main lines and over 5,500 miles of sewer main lines.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery and Prince George's counties; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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