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**By: Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force for the Study of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission**

3 **MC/PG 12-97**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force for the Study of the Washington Suburban  
5 Sanitary Commission; specifying the membership of and the appointment process  
6 for the Task Force; establishing the duties and staffing of the Task Force; and  
7 generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force for the Study of the  
8 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) (1) There is a Task Force for the Study of the Washington Suburban  
12 Sanitary Commission.

13 (2) The Task Force is established to study the operation of the Washington  
14 Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) as the agency relates to Montgomery and Prince  
15 George's Counties and the Montgomery County and Prince George's County  
16 governments to identify those areas where efficiency and savings can be achieved by  
17 reassignment of WSSC functions or responsibilities to the respective county governments.

18 (b) (1) The Task Force consists of nine members.

19 (2) Of the nine members:

20 (i) one shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Montgomery  
21 County Senate Select Committee;

22 (ii) one shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Prince George's  
23 County Senate Select Committee;

24 (iii) one shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Montgomery  
25 County House of Delegates Delegation;

26 (iv) one shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Prince George's  
27 County House of Delegates Delegation;

28 (v) one shall be appointed by the County Executive of Montgomery  
29 County;

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1 (vi) one shall be appointed by the County Executive of Prince George's  
2 County;

3 (vii) one shall be appointed by the County Council of Montgomery  
4 County;

5 (viii) one shall be appointed by the County Council of Prince George's  
6 County; and

7 (ix) one shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Washington  
8 Suburban Sanitary Commission.

9 (3) In appointing members of the Task Force, the appointing authority shall  
10 seek to include individuals who have an understanding of:

11 (i) public finance, tax, and bond issuance authority;

12 (ii) the role of the WSSC and its relationship with Montgomery and  
13 Prince George's Counties; and

14 (iii) local government organization, personnel, and structure.

15 (c) The Task Force shall elect one of its members as chairman of the Task Force.

16 (d) (1) The Maryland Department of Fiscal Services and the Maryland  
17 Department of Legislative Reference shall provide staff support to the Task Force.

18 (2) Under the direction of the Task Force, the Department of Fiscal  
19 Services shall conduct a feasibility study of transferring WSSC duties, functions, and  
20 financial obligations to Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

21 (3) Under the direction of the Task Force, the Department of Legislative  
22 Reference shall examine the statutory changes required to transfer the duties of the  
23 WSSC to Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

24 (e) The Task Force shall study:

25 (1) the role and functions of the WSSC;

26 (2) the feasibility of transferring the administration of the functions and  
27 duties of the WSSC to the respective county governments of Montgomery and Prince  
28 George's Counties;

29 (3) the financial and tax implications of outstanding bonds and assessments  
30 by the WSSC in any possible transfer scenario; and

31 (4) any other matter appropriate, in the view of the Task Force, concerning  
32 the role and functions of the WSSC, the needs of Montgomery and Prince George's  
33 Counties, and the opportunities for change to better serve the residents of Montgomery  
34 and Prince George's Counties.

35 (f) The County governments and the WSSC shall cooperate and work with the  
36 Task Force and, at the request of the Task Force, provide any information or assistance  
37 that the Task Force requires to carry out its responsibilities.

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1 (g) (1) On or before December 1, 1997, the Task Force shall complete its study  
2 and report its findings and recommendations to the:

3 (i) County Executive of Montgomery County;

4 (ii) County Executive of Prince George's County;

5 (iii) County Council for Montgomery County;

6 (iv) County Council for Prince George's County;

7 (v) Montgomery County Senate Select Committee and House  
8 Delegation; and

9 (vi) Prince George's County Senate Select Committee and House  
10 Delegation.

11 (2) The Task Force's report shall include a detailed fiscal analysis reflecting  
12 any savings that can be achieved as a result of each recommendation.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 June 1, 1997.