

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 608 (Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Washington Suburban Sanitary District - Water Main Breaks - Payment for  
Property Damage  
MC/PG 2-99**

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This bill authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to pay for property damage caused by a water main break occurring on or after October 1, 1999, except if the water main break or resulting damage was caused by an intentional act or negligence of the owner or tenant of the property. Under current law the WSSC is only authorized to pay for property damage from a sewer backup.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate effect on WSSC expenditures. No effect on WSSC revenues. The bill's provisions would not materially affect Montgomery or Prince George's counties' finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** The number of water main breaks which would result in property damage cannot be determined beforehand. WSSC advises that most water main breaks result in water spilling onto a street only without any property damage. If a water main break were to cause property damage, WSSC expenditures would depend on the severity of the break and the degree of property damage. A reliable estimate of the potential costs cannot be determined at this time.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 1999

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