

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1092

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

Commerce and Government Matters

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Task Force to Study WSSC
System Chlorination
PG/MC 127-02**

This bill establishes a 17-member Task Force to Study Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) System Chlorination. Staff support for the task force must be provided by WSSC and the Department of the Environment. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Montgomery and Prince George's counties House and Senate Delegations, the county executives and county councils of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and WSSC on or before December 31, 2002.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002 and sunsets May 31, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Department of the Environment are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources.

Local Effect: WSSC could provide staff support and technical assistance to the task force with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The membership of the Task Force to Study WSSC System Chlorination is comprised of: (1) one member each of the Montgomery and Prince George's counties Senate and House delegations; (2) one member each designated by the county executives of Montgomery and Prince George's counties; (3) one member each designated by the chair of the Montgomery and Prince George's county councils; (4) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee; (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's designee; (6) two members designated by WSSC; (7) one member each designated by the local health departments of Montgomery and Prince George's counties; (8) one member from the University of Maryland with scientific knowledge and expertise in water quality issues selected by the Governor; and (9) two members selected by the Governor to represent community interests in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Governor must designate the chair of the task force.

The task force must: (1) study the chlorination and other methods used by WSSC to disinfect water supplied in the sanitary district; (2) study and assess the levels, potential health effects, and persistence of chlorination by-products in the WSSC water supply as they may affect individuals living and working in the sanitary district; (3) assess alternative methods of disinfection that may involve lower levels of chlorination by-products in the WSSC water supply and the potential health effects, both risks and benefits, that may accrue from using those alternatives; (4) obtain public input on the use of current and alternative disinfection methods for the WSSC water supply; and (5) make appropriate recommendations on any changes that may be advisable in the disinfection and treatment of water in the WSSC system to maintain high water quality standards and minimize potential health effects in individuals living and working in the sanitary district.

Background: WSSC maintains and operates two water treatment plants and five wastewater treatment plants. WSSC also maintains numerous water storage facilities, wastewater pumping stations, and more than 10,000 miles of water and sewer lines.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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