

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 767

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Pretreatment Program - Citations
and Complaints
PG/MC 105-02**

This bill authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to adopt regulations governing the WSSC pretreatment program. The bill also: (1) makes violations of pretreatment standards a WSSC infraction under the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court; (2) authorizes WSSC to issue a written complaint; and (3) changes the definition of a WSSC infraction to include regulations governing the pretreatment program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice and makes State law consistent with WSSC codes and regulations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law currently does not mirror WSSC regulations regarding pretreatment requirements for industrial users. WSSC is required to issue a written complaint if it has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to whom the complaint is

directed has violated any provision of the WSSC pretreatment program. The definition of a WSSC infraction does not include violations of the pretreatment program.

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. The WSSC pretreatment program ensures that industrial waste is treated properly and removed from the water supply before returning to the water supply system for consumption. The federal government has delegated the responsibility for pretreatment programs to the states; the Maryland Department of the Environment has delegated the program to local entities.

Local Fiscal Effect: WSSC expenditures and revenues would not be affected by the bill's provisions. WSSC advises that the bill's provisions codify existing practice and that enforcement of the pretreatment program will not be altered. The amount of fines collected from violations of the pretreatment program is not expected to vary greatly from year to year. In calendar 2000 approximately \$12,000 in fines were collected for pretreatment violations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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lsc/hlb

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