

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 535 (Montgomery County Delegation and  
Prince George’s County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

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**WSSC Commissioners – Removal**  
**MC/PG 102-05**

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This emergency bill bypasses the prescribed procedure for removing commissioners of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and removes from office all the commissioners, or successors selected to fill a vacancy on the commission, 30 days from the effective date of this bill. Additionally, it forbids the reappointment to WSSC of anyone who is removed from office under this bill. On the thirty-first day following the effective date of this bill, new commissioners will be appointed to serve the remainder of their terms.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Removing the current WSSC commissioners and appointing new ones would not directly affect WSSC finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In Montgomery County, a WSSC commissioner may be removed by the county executive with the approval of a majority of members of the county council, or by resolution of a majority of the members of the county council unless the county executive disapproves of the resolution in writing within 30 days of its adoption. In Prince George’s County, however, a WSSC commissioner may only be removed by the county

executive with the approval of a majority of members of the county council. Furthermore, in Montgomery County a public hearing regarding the removal of a WSSC commissioner will be held by the body initiating the removal, and in Prince George's County, by the county council.

**Background:** WSSC is among the 10 largest water and sewer utilities in the country, providing water and sewer services to 1.6 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It has an operating budget of more than \$690 million, 420,000 customer accounts, serves an area of around 1,000 square miles, and currently employs more than 1,500 people. This agency operates four reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2005  
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