

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 537 (Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's County Delegation)
Environmental Matters

**Prince George's County - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission –
Commissioner Removal
MC/PG 128-05**

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Council, by a resolution of a majority of members, to remove a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) commissioner, provided that the county executive does not disapprove of the resolution in writing within 30 days of its adoption. Currently, a WSSC commissioner from Prince George's County may only be removed by the county executive with the approval of a majority of the county council. Pursuant to the legislation, Montgomery and Prince George's counties would have the same procedures for removing WSSC commissioners.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Changing the removal procedure for a WSSC commissioner from Prince George's County would not affect WSSC finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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

WSSC has six commissioners, with three commissioners each from Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

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 a total budget of \$691 million in fiscal 2005, 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.

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 17, 2005
mp/hlb

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