

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 750

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Maryland-National Capital Park
and Planning Commission - Appointments - Interviews and Financial Statements**
MC/PG 102-07

This bill provides that the county executive (or designee) of Montgomery County or Prince George's County is required to interview an applicant for appointment to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) as to possible conflicts of interest, only if this applicant is selected for appointment. Further, the bill authorizes a designee of the Montgomery County Executive to request documents from Montgomery County applicants. The bill also changes the period covered by financial disclosure statements for applicants for appointment to the WSSC from Montgomery and Prince George's counties and for applicants for appointment to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) from Montgomery County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill should not materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The county executive (or designee) of Montgomery County or Prince George's County is required to interview each applicant for appointment or reappointment to the WSSC from their county to ascertain potential conflicts of interest.

The bill would change this requirement so that the only interview required is one with the individual selected for appointment. Currently, in Montgomery County only the county executive may require the production of necessary document from WSSC applicants for that county, the bill would allow a designee to do so.

Applicants for appointment to either WSSC or M-NCPPC from Montgomery County are required to file financial disclosure statements at least five days before the interview. These statements must cover the 12-month period ending 60 days before the initial date set for the interview. This bill changes that date for Montgomery County applicants to be 60 days before the day the statement is filed.

Applicants for appointment to WSSC from Prince George's County are required to file financial disclosure statements at least five days before the interview. These statements must cover the 12-month period ending 60 days before the initial date set for the interview. This bill changes that date to be 60 days before the day the statement is filed. For appointments to M-NCPPC from Prince George's County, an applicant's financial disclosure statement has to be filed at least five days before the initial date set for the confirmation hearing and cover the 12-month period ending 60 days before that date.

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 \$757.1 million (\$502.1 operating budget and \$255.0 capital budget) in fiscal 2007, over 400,000 customer accounts, and serves an area of around 1,000 square miles. It operates three reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants. WSSC is governed by a six-member commission with three members appointed by the county executive of each county, and confirmed by the respective county council.

M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and administer a regional system of parks within the Maryland-Washington Regional District and administer a general plan for the physical development of the area. In 1970, M-NCPPC became responsible for managing the Prince George's County public recreation program. M-NCPPC is governed by a 10-member commission with five members appointed by the county executive of Prince George's County and confirmed by the county council, and five members appointed by the Montgomery County Council with the approval of the county executive.

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 - March 12, 2007
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2007

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510