

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 940

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Maryland-National Capital  
Park and Planning Commission - Appointments - Interviews and Financial  
Statements**  
**PG/MC 102-08**

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This bill provides that the county executive (or designee) of Montgomery County or Prince George's County is required to interview as to possible conflicts of interest only, in private and before appointment, the applicant who is selected for appointment to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. The county executives (or their designees) may interview each applicant. Further, the bill authorizes a designee of the Montgomery County Executive to request documents from Montgomery County applicants, and requires the Prince George's County Executive (or designee) to inform the county council of possible conflicts of interest before an applicant is appointed. The bill also changes the period covered by financial disclosure statements for applicants for appointment to WSSC and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the deadline for submission of the statements for applicants of M-NCPPC.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill alters the procedures involved in interviewing applicants for appointment to WSSC or M-NCPPC.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## 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 WSSC from their respective county to ascertain potential conflicts of interest. In Montgomery County, the County Executive may require the production of necessary documents from WSSC applicants.

Applicants for appointment to M-NCPPC or WSSC are required to file financial disclosure statements covering the 12-month period ending 60 days before the initial date set for the interview or confirmation hearing. For M-NCPPC applicants, these statements must be filed not later than five days before the initial date set for the interview or confirmation hearing. For WSSC applicants, these statements must be filed not later than five days before the interview itself.

**Background:** WSSC is among the 10 largest water and sewer utilities in the country encompassing nearly all of Montgomery and Prince George's counties and providing water and sewer service to 1.8 million customers in an area of nearly 1,000 square miles. WSSC has a total budget of \$807.5 million (\$525.9 million operating budget and \$281.6 million capital budget) in fiscal 2008 and operates three reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and seven wastewater treatment plants.

M-NCPPC is a bicounty planning and land management agency empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and operate a regional system of parks within the Maryland-Washington Regional District. The commission provides land use planning for the physical development of the majority of Montgomery and Prince George's counties through the administration of a General Plan. 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 5 members appointed by the County Executive of Prince George's County and confirmed by the County Council and 5 members appointed by the Montgomery County Council with the approval of the County Executive. M-NCPPC is funded with appropriations from the counties' annual operating budgets and is self-insured for workers' compensation costs.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill would not have a fiscal impact on any local or bi-county agency. However, the bill could reduce some administrative burden due to the streamlining of the procedures involved in interviewing applicants for appointment to the WSSC.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill, HB 750 of 2007, received a favorable with amendments report from the House Environmental Matters Committee and passed the House; however, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee did not take action on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2008  
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 2008

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