

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 896  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Commission” and substitute “District”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 5 down through “circumstances;” in line 10; in line 10, after “requiring” insert “, beginning on a certain date,”; strike beginning with “prohibiting” in line 12 down through “year;” in line 28 and substitute “establishing a Task Force to Study the Effect of Changes to Rates and Charges of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force; providing for the election of the chair of the Task Force; providing that the members of the Task Force may not receive certain compensation but are entitled to certain reimbursement; requiring the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to provide certain records and documents to the Task Force; specifying the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County delegations to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of a certain provision of this Act;”; in line 29, strike “of and bonds issued”; in the same line, strike “and collected by” and substitute “in”; and in line 30, strike “Commission” and substitute “District”.

On page 2, in line 3, strike “22-102, 22-114, 25-211, and”; and strike in their entirety lines 6 through 10, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 through 8, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 14 on page 2 through line 24 on page 8, inclusive.

On page 10, in line 8, strike “**IN**” and substitute “**BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2013,**  
**IN**”.

(Over)

On pages 10 and 11, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 27 on page 10 through line 10 on page 11, inclusive.

On page 11, strike beginning with the second comma in line 11 down through “section” in line 16 and substitute “:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Rates and Charges in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member from the delegation to the Senate of Maryland from Montgomery County, selected by the chair of the delegation;

(2) one member from the delegation to the Senate of Maryland from Prince George’s County, selected by the chair of the delegation;

(3) one member from the delegation to the House of Delegates from Montgomery County, appointed by the chair of the delegation;

(4) one member from the delegation to the House of Delegates from Prince George’s County, appointed by the chair of the delegation;

(5) one member who has experience in finance designated by the County Executive of Montgomery County;

(6) one member who has experience in finance designated by the County Executive of Prince George’s County;

(7) one member who has experience in finance designated by the Montgomery County Council;

(8) one member who has experience in finance designated by the Prince George's County Council;

(9) the chair of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, or the chair's designee; and

(10) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association;

(ii) one representative of a land developer in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District in Prince George's County; and

(iii) one representative of a land developer in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District in Montgomery County.

(c) The Task Force shall elect one of its members as chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission shall provide any information and documents to the Task Force that the Task Force requires to carry out the duties of the Task Force under subsection (g) of this section.

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) determine if there are water and sewer public utilities in other states that have a cap on the percentage that the public utility may increase water and sewer usage rates in a single year;

(2) complete a comparison of the water and sewer usage rates and rate increases charged by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission with the rates charged by water and sewer public utilities in other states;

(3) determine what the effect on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission would be if the General Assembly:

(i) implemented a cap on the percentage that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission may increase water and sewer usage rates in a single year; and

(ii) required the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to give a prepayment discount to a customer who extinguished or redeemed a front foot benefit charge before the final payment was due;

(4) study the process developers follow in charging property owners for the cost of constructing water and sewer facilities and connecting the property to the water and sewer facilities; and

(5) make recommendations regarding:

(i) standards for developers to follow when charging property owners for the cost of constructing water and sewer facilities and connecting property to the water and sewer facilities; and

(ii) improving the transparency of the practice of developers charging property owners for the cost of constructing water and sewer facilities and connecting the property to the water and sewer facilities.

(h) On or before December 31, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Montgomery County and Prince George's County delegations to the General Assembly";

strike in their entirety lines 17 through 24, inclusive; in line 25, strike "5." and substitute "3."; and in line 26, after "2012." insert "Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.".