

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 905 (Delegate Griffith)  
Environmental Matters

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**Task Force to Study Water and Sewer Construction Charges by Developers in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Water and Sewer Construction Charges by Developers in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is required to provide staff support for the task force.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012, and terminates May 31, 2013.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in WSSC expenditures relating to expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must 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 make recommendations regarding (1) standards for developers to follow when charging property owners for the cost of constructing water and sewer facilities and connecting the property to the water and sewer facilities; and (2) 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.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Montgomery County and Prince George's County legislative delegations by December 31, 2012.

**Background:** WSSC is the eighth largest water and wastewater utility in the country, providing water and sewer services to 1.8 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It has over 460,000 customer accounts, serves an area of around 1,000 square miles, and currently employs more than 1,500 people. The agency operates four reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, the Blue Plains Water Pollution Control Plant handles approximately 169 million gallons per day under a cost sharing agreement with WSSC. The commission maintains nearly 5,500 miles of water main lines and over 5,400 miles of sewer main lines.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2012  
ncs/hlb

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