

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 889

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Human Resources
PG/MC 103-12

This bill repeals requirements that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) submit specified information regarding its merit system or classified service to the Secretary of Budget and Management. The bill also repeals provisions of law regarding testing requirements for filling vacant positions under the merit system or classified service. The bill clarifies that certain honorably discharged veterans receive a certain credit in competitive selection processes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature and has no significant fiscal or operational effect on WSSC.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: WSSC must report several items relating to its merit system or classified service to the Department of Budget and Management, including any changes in a rule or regulation regarding its merit system or classified service; a list of positions and corresponding salaries in its merit system or classified service; reasons for these position classifications; and a list of individuals meeting minimum testing requirement for WSSC jobs. Failure of the Secretary to act on this information within 60 days constitutes approval.

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.

WSSC advises that the bill repeals obsolete provisions of law regarding human resources at WSSC and has no significant fiscal or operational effect on the agency.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 611 of 2011 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 578 of 2010 received a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2012
mm/hlb

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