

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 640

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

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Sewage Leaks - Notice
Requirements
MC/PG 115-13**

This bill requires the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), within 24 hours of the discovery of a leak in a sanitary sewer line, pipe, or fixture that is connected to the sanitary sewer system, to: (1) notify the county and any municipality in which the sewage leak is located about the sewage leak and the commission's intended action concerning the sewage leak; and (2) include on its website notice to the general public about the sewage leak, and the phone number for obtaining additional information from the commission. WSSC is required to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements do not differ substantially from WSSC's current practices and procedures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: WSSC is among the largest water and wastewater utilities 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 commission operates three reservoirs, two water filtration plants, and six wastewater treatment plants. The six wastewater treatment facilities, as well as the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, handle as much as 180 million gallons of wastewater per day. The commission maintains nearly 5,600 miles of water main lines and over 5,400 miles of sewer main lines.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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ncs/hlb

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