

# HOUSE BILL 1132

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2016  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Board of Ethics – Subpoena**  
3 **Power**

4 **PG/MC 105–16**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of Ethics established by the Washington  
6 Suburban Sanitary Commission to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses  
7 to testify or to produce other evidence; providing that certain subpoenas may be  
8 judicially enforced; and generally relating to the powers of the Board of Ethics  
9 established by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Public Utilities  
12 Section 19–101  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Public Utilities  
17 Section 19–106  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission is required by law to  
22 establish certain ethics regulations for its employees with respect to conflicts of interest  
23 and financial disclosures; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Commission has established a Board of Ethics in accordance with  
2 Title 5, Subtitle 8, Part IV of the General Provisions Article that is equivalent to the  
3 provisions of the State Ethics Law; and

4 WHEREAS, The Commission contends that the Board of Ethics is unable to perform  
5 its function effectively without similar authority to issue subpoenas as the State Ethics  
6 Commission; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article – Public Utilities**

10 19–101.

11 In this title, “Board” means the Board of Ethics established by the Commission under  
12 regulations adopted in accordance with Title 5, Subtitle 8, Part IV of the General Provisions  
13 Article.

14 19–106.

15 **(A) The Board may:**

16 **(1) administer oaths; AND**

17 **(2) ISSUE SUBPOENAS FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES TO**  
18 **TESTIFY OR TO PRODUCE OTHER EVIDENCE.**

19 **(B) A SUBPOENA ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED**  
20 **JUDICIALLY.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2016.