

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 370

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

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bicounty Commissions - Annual Reports - Conflicts of Interest and Lobbying
PG/MC 102-20

This bill requires a bicounty commission (the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)) to (1) submit specified annual reports on conflicts of interest and lobbying *by April 30* each year (covering the previous calendar year) and (2) publish the reports on the bicounty commission's website.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Public Ethics Law requires a bicounty commission ("bicounty commission" means M-NCPPC, WSSC, or WSTC) to adopt and submit to the State Ethics Commission specified regulations relating to conflicts of interest and lobbying. A bicounty commission must submit annual reports to the governing body of each county in which it operates on (1) conflict of interest issues and regulations during the year covered and (2) lobbying before the bicounty commission and regulation of that lobbying by the commission.

Background: WSTC advises that while it does not currently maintain a website, it is in the early stages of developing a website with assistance from the Maryland Department of Transportation. WSTC anticipates launching the website in spring 2020.

WSSC's annual ethics reports from calendar 2005 through 2018 are available on the WSSC [website](#). While M-NCPPC maintains a website, it does not currently publish annual conflict of interest and lobbying reports on the website.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission; Montgomery and Prince George's counties; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Washington Suburban Transit Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2020
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