

**HB1195/493627/1**

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1195  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Transparency**” and substitute “**Reporting**”; in line 4, strike “**Transparency and Reform**” and substitute “**Planning and Reporting**”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 9 down through “operations” in line 17 and substitute “requiring the Commission to submit a certain long-range comprehensive financial plan in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to publish and include certain information on its website; requiring the budget authorization for the Office of the Inspector General in the Commission to be approved independently and without the involvement of Commission staff; requiring the Office to undergo a certain external, independent peer review of the Office’s quality control system with a certain frequency; requiring the Commission to report in a certain manner certain information relating to bills exceeding certain limits for high bill adjustments; requiring the Commission to report to the General Assembly on certain procedural changes to enhance the customer engagement process for certain customers and to include information relating to the changes in customer notification letters; requiring the Commission to work with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and, as necessary, other stakeholders to assess certain ad valorem taxes; requiring the Commission to hire a consultant to conduct, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, a certain independent evaluation; requiring the Office to conduct a certain review of the efficiency and sustainability of the operations of the Commission and the Department of Legislative Services to conduct a review of the review”; in line 21, strike “and 25-504(a) and (b)” and substitute “17-607, and 25-504(b)”; and in line 26, strike “and 28-102” and substitute “, 17-610, and 25-504(h)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 15, strike “Each” and substitute “**EXCEPT FOR THE COMMISSIONER WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MONTGOMERY**”

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OR IS THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, EACH"; in line 25, after "(1)" insert "THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

(2);

and in lines 27 and 29, strike "(2)" and "(3)", respectively, and substitute "(3)" and "(4)", respectively.

On page 3, in line 1, strike "(4)" and substitute "(5)"; in line 3, strike "(5)" and substitute "(E)"; and after line 4, insert:

"(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OR IS THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE:

(1) SERVES AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; AND

(2) MAY SERVE AS THE CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION."

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 22 on page 3 through line 8 on page 4, inclusive, and substitute:

"(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2025, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE COUNTY COUNCILS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

(I) A LONG-RANGE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN  
THAT:

1. IS DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH AN INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISOR; AND

2. MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)  
OF THIS SECTION; AND

(II) ANY UPDATED COMMISSION POLICIES RELATING TO  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2026, AND EVERY 5 YEARS  
THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY COUNCILS OF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

(I) AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE LONG-RANGE  
COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN; AND

(II) ANY UPDATED COMMISSION POLICIES RELATING TO  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

(B) A LONG-RANGE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN SHALL:

(1) INCLUDE STRESS TESTING BASED ON INDUSTRY STANDARDS;  
AND

(Over)

(2) TEST THE IMPACT OF A WIDE RANGE OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT MAY AFFECT THE COMMISSION AND ITS FINANCIAL SOLVENCY, INCLUDING CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT RATES, INTEREST RATES, AND WATER USAGE.

(c) THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH THE LONG-RANGE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 17-401 OF THIS TITLE."

On pages 5 and 6, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 12 on page 5 through line 7 on page 6, inclusive, and substitute:

“(F) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL CONTAIN:

(I) ANY DOCUMENTS RELATING TO A BOND RATING RECEIVED FROM A MAJOR CREDIT RATING AGENCY;

(II) DATA RELATED TO THE REFUND HEARING BOARD OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING:

1. THE NUMBER OF CASES FILED;
2. THE NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED;
3. THE NUMBER OF CASES GRANTED;
4. THE NUMBER OF CASES DENIED;

**5. THE REFUND AMOUNT REQUESTED IN EACH CASE;**

**AND**

**6. THE REFUND AMOUNT GRANTED IN EACH CASE;**

**(III) DATA RELATED TO THE DISPUTE RESOLVING BOARD OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING:**

**1. THE NUMBER OF CASES FILED;**

**2. THE NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED;**

**3. THE NUMBER OF CASES GRANTED;**

**4. THE NUMBER OF CASES DENIED;**

**5. THE UNPAID AMOUNT DISPUTED IN EACH CASE;**

**AND**

**6. THE AMOUNT OF RELIEF GRANTED IN EACH CASE;**

**AND**

**(IV) A COPY OF ANY STRESS TESTING COMPLETED FOR A LONG-RANGE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 17-202.1 OF THIS TITLE.**

**(2) THE DATA PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT CONTAIN ANY PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.”.**

(Over)

**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee  
Amendments to HB 1195  
Page 6 of 12**

On page 6, in lines 8 and 10, strike “(I)” and “(J)”, respectively, and substitute “(G)” and “(H)”, respectively; and after line 14, insert:

“17-607.

(a) **(1)** The Commission shall include in the Commission’s annual operating budget proposal the amounts recommended for the Office.

**(2)** THE BUDGET AUTHORIZATION FOR THE OFFICE SHALL BE APPROVED INDEPENDENTLY AND WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF COMMISSION STAFF.

(b) Subject to budget authorization and adequate funds:

(1) the Commission’s general counsel shall provide legal services to the inspector general and may employ special counsel if appropriate or required by law; and

(2) the inspector general may employ and be represented by a special legal counsel without consent of the general counsel if the Commission approves of a request after considering any recommendation or comment offered by the general counsel relating to the request.

17-610.

**(A) (1)** ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2026, AND EVERY 3 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE SHALL UNDERGO AN EXTERNAL, INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW TO ASSESS WHETHER THE OFFICE’S QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM IS EFFECTIVELY DESIGNED AND OPERATING IN COMPLIANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.

(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE INITIAL PEER REVIEW CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) A REVIEW OF WHETHER THE OFFICE IS SUFFICIENTLY INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMISSION AND COMMISSION STAFF; AND

(II) AN ANALYSIS OF WHETHER ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS, INCLUDING THOSE EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMISSION'S INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCES, OPERATIONS, AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES, WOULD HELP ACHIEVE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

(B) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT THE RESULTS OF THE PEER REVIEW CONDUCTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO:

(I) THE COUNTY COUNCILS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY;

(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

(III) THE COMMISSION.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH EACH PEER REVIEW CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.”.

On pages 6 and 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 6 through line 7 on page 7, inclusive.

(Over)

**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee  
Amendments to HB 1195  
Page 8 of 12**

On page 7, in line 9, strike “OR”; in line 10, strike the brackets; in line 11, after “(II)” insert “1.”; in line 12, strike “MONTHLY BASIS” and substitute “FIXED PERIODIC BASIS, SUCH AS MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY BILLING, WITHOUT THE USE OF ESTIMATED BILLING.”

**2. SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY OR APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**”;

after line 13, insert:

**“(H) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2026, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCILS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR THAT REPORTED BILLS EXCEEDING THE LIMITS FOR HIGH BILL ADJUSTMENTS UNDER THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION CODE OF REGULATIONS.”**;

strike in their entirety lines 14 through 26, inclusive, and substitute:

**“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

**(a) The Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, or the Director’s designee, shall become a member of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission beginning on the date that the term expires for one of the next two commissioners from Montgomery County whose terms expire after October 1, 2025.**

**(b) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the County Executive of Montgomery County shall determine which commissioner term shall apply as the beginning of the term for the Director of the Montgomery County Department of**



**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee  
Amendments to HB 1195  
Page 9 of 12**

Environmental Protection, or the Director's designee, to serve as a member of the Commission.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) (1) On or before November 1, 2025, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on procedural changes that are being developed and finalized to enhance the customer engagement process for customers that receive high bills.

(2) On or before November 1, 2026, the Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the full implementation of the procedural changes described under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) The Commission shall:

(1) publish the procedural changes reported under subsection (a) of this section on the Commission's website; and

(2) include information on the procedural changes in customer notification letters.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Notwithstanding recognition by the General Assembly that the authority for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to consider an ad valorem tax in accordance with § 22-112 of the Public Utilities Article has never been used by the Commission and that the Commission has no intention of imposing an ad valorem tax, the Commission shall work with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and, as necessary, other stakeholders, including Montgomery County and Prince

(Over)

**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**Amendments to HB 1195**  
**Page 10 of 12**

George's County, to assess the ad valorem taxes necessary to support the Commission's debt solely for the purpose of compliance with this section.

(b) (1) On or before December 1, 2026, the Commission shall report the assessment under subsection (a) of this section to the county councils of Montgomery County and Prince George's County and the members of the Montgomery County and Prince George's County delegations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

(2) In the report submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commission may, solely for the purpose of compliance with this section, show additional ad valorem possibilities based on factors such as the level of debt service it can support or economic conditions.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission shall hire a consultant to conduct, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, an independent evaluation of the efficiency and sustainability of the Commission.

(b) The independent evaluation conducted under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) a review of the Commission's budgetary process, including the annual setting of rates through the relevant county councils;

(2) a review of the Commission's process for entering into consent decrees; and

(3) a review of the role the Public Service Commission plays in oversight of the Commission, including in the Public Service Commission's review of the

**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**Amendments to HB 1195**  
**Page 11 of 12**

reasonableness of any rate, charge, or assessment done in accordance with § 25–105 of the Public Utilities Article.

(c) On or before October 1, 2027, the independent evaluation required under subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the Commission, the county councils of Montgomery County and Prince George’s County, and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(d) The Commission shall publish the independent evaluation on the Commission’s website.”;

in line 27, strike “3.” and substitute “6.”; strike beginning with “Program” in line 28 down through “Services” in line 29 and substitute “the Inspector General in the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission”; and in line 30, strike “Washington Suburban Sanitary”.

On pages 7 and 8, strike beginning with “a” in line 32 on page 7 down through “(5)” in line 6 on page 8.

On page 8, in lines 8, 11, and 16, strike “(6)”, “(7)”, and “(8)”, respectively, and substitute “(2)”, “(3)”, and “(4)”, respectively; in line 18, after “funding;” insert “and”; strike in their entirety lines 19 through 21, inclusive; strike beginning with “(10)” in line 22 down through “activities” in line 28 and substitute:

“(5) a review of the Commission’s approach to coordinating road work with other utilities and government agencies”;

in line 29, after “(c)” insert “(1)”; in lines 29 and 30, strike “of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability”; in line 30, after “the” insert “Department of Legislative Services and the”; and after line 32, insert:

(Over)

**HB1195/493627/01 Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**Amendments to HB 1195**  
**Page 12 of 12**

“(2) The Department shall conduct a review of the report submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection and report its findings to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on or before October 1, 2028.”.

On page 9, in line 1, strike “4.” and substitute “7.”; and strike beginning with “Section” in line 2 down through “effect.” in line 7.