

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 654 (Senator Rosapepe)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Raw Water Pipeline Project -
Audit

This bill requires the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to retain and consult with a third-party auditor to conduct an audit of the raw water pipeline project, contract number BF1582E91, that extends from the Rocky Gorge Pumping Station to the Patuxent Water Filtration Plant. The results of the audit must be reported to specified committees of the General Assembly by October 1, 2026. **The bill terminates September 30, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: WSSC expenditures increase by \$40,000 in FY 2026 for auditing services. WSSC revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The third-party auditor must consult with the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA).

The audit must provide:

- a detailed timeline of the project;
- the reasons why the project has been delayed past its completion date of March 2023;

- a detailed accounting of the costs associated with the project; and
- any other items recommended by OLA.

Current Law: WSSC is among the largest water and wastewater utilities in the country, providing water and sewer services to 1.9 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. It has more than 475,000 customer accounts, serves an area of nearly 1,000 square miles, and has a network of 5,900 miles of drinking water pipeline and over 5,600 miles of sewer main lines.

Local Expenditures: WSSC expenditures increase by \$40,000 in fiscal 2026 to hire the third-party auditor required by the bill.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced in the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Prince George’s County; Department of Legislative Services - Office of Legislative Audits; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2025
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