

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1168 (Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's
County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges MC/PG 112–25

This bill authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to establish one or more customer classes for any service rate or charge as well as one or more service rates to provide funds for specified uses by the commission. The bill clarifies that a class includes a class based on the size of the meter on the water connection leading to a property. The bill also authorizes a minimum or ready to serve charge to include an infrastructure investment component; authorizes, rather than requires, the minimum or ready to serve charge to be based on the size of the meter on the water connection leading to a property; and further authorizes the minimum or ready to serve charge to be based on other criteria in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

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.

WSSC is required to set a service rate that it considers necessary to provide funds for (1) maintaining, repairing, and operating its water supply and sewer systems, including the overhead expense and depreciation allowance and (2) making any payments to the District of Columbia.

The service rate (1) must be chargeable against all properties for a connection with any line owned by WSSC; (2) must be uniform throughout the sanitary district; and (3) may be changed as necessary.

The service rate for water consists of a minimum or a ready to serve charge and a charge for water used. The minimum or ready to serve charge must be based on the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property. The charge for water used must be based on the amount of water passing the meter during the period between the last two readings.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

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km/tso

Analysis by: Kayvon Samadani

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510