



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 789

DATE: April 2, 2021

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE POSITION: Support

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video and Audio Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Financial Assistance MC/PG 100-21

This bill requires the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to stream live video or audio of its open meetings (including teleconference calls) and maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived recording of each meeting. In the event of a technical failure that entirely prevents or affects the quality of live streaming, the bill specifies that the validity of any action taken by the Commission during the meeting is unaffected so long as the meeting otherwise complies with the bill and the Open Meetings Act and is not the result of willful action by the Commission. In addition to creating minutes, the Commission must make good faith efforts to record (by video or audio) any session that it is unable to livestream and maintain the recording on its website.

The bill also provides that financial assistance under the Commission's Customer Assistance Program may include a reduction or waiver of fees, including late fees.

The County Executive believes that this bill serves the public interest by enhancing transparency and accountability regarding the Commission's actions and by making a common sense change to the Commission's authority regarding the existing Customer Assistance Program. The County Executive respectfully requests that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee give this bill a favorable report.