



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Fact Sheet - WSSC Planning and Reporting Act of 2025 (HB 1195)

Summary of HB 1195:

The legislation would increase transparency at WSSC and make reforms so that it better serves ratepayers sustainably and efficiently. It was introduced in response to numerous constituent concerns and has been heavily negotiated with WSSC. A summary of the bill as amended in the delegation is as follows:

Bolsters Oversight By Placing the Montgomery County Director of Environmental Protection on the Commission

- The County Executive is given the discretion to make this change at the conclusion of either of the next two current commissioner terms.
- Clarifies that the Director can serve as chair or vice chair and removes county residency requirements.
- Does not affect Prince George's County Commission appointees.

Improves WSSC's Sustainability By Setting Requirements for an Every 5 Years Long-Range Comprehensive Financial Plan

- The plan is developed in conjunction with an independent financial advisor.
- Includes stress testing based on industry standards and a range of economic conditions.

Further Address Long-Term Sustainability with a Report on Ad Valorem Taxes

- There is an existing legislative backstop for WSSC debt via ad valorem (property) taxes.
- This provision would require reporting on the level of ad valorem taxes that would be necessary to support WSSC debt, although no such taxes are currently planned.

Makes WSSC More Transparent By Requiring More Available Information be Posted Online

- Includes any documents related to bond ratings.
- Includes data on WSSC's Refund Hearing Board and the Dispute Resolution Board.
- Includes stress tests described above.

Reforms the Legislatively-Established WSSC Inspector General

- Removes WSSC management from the Inspector General's budget process.
- Require a triennial peer review of the WSSC Inspector General.

Sets General Assembly Intent that WSSC Switch to Fixed Period Billing

- Irregular billing causes great confusion, so the legislation sets the intent that WSSC should move away from it.
- As amended, the intent is specifically technology-neutral, and WSSC can determine the appropriate fixed period (monthly, bimonthly, etc).

Pushes for Improvements to the High Bill Adjustment System

- Requires reporting on how many customers had bills that exceeded the limits on high bill adjustments.
- Requires reporting on the procedural changes WSSC is planning to enhance the customer engagement process for high bills and the implementation of those changes.

Improve WSSC Operations Via an Inspector General Review of The Following Topics

- Benchmarking to other systems;
- Effectiveness of capital program;
- The WSSC police force;
- And road work coordination.

Consider WSSC Governance Improvements Via a Third Party Study

- WSSC, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, would hire a third-party consultant.
- The independent evaluation would include a review of the WSSC budgetary process, the Public Service Commission's role, and the process for entering consent decrees.

Avenel

- Negotiations continue with WSSC on the Avenel-provisions of the bill impacting District 16.