



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1168

DATE: March 6, 2025

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

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher (Kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)

COUNTY POSITION: Support with Amendments

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

House Bill 1168 was requested by WSSC Water and, as introduced, relates to service charges (i.e., “rates”) imposed on customers based on water and sewer usage. The Montgomery County House Delegation voted favorable on the bill with amendments that strike any reference to service rates and make the bill applicable instead to the fixed rate Ready to Serve Charge that is imposed on customers based on meter size. The Ready to Serve Charge is made up of two components: (1) an Account Maintenance Fee; and (2) an Infrastructure Investment Fee.

The amended bill allows WSSC Water to establish customer classes within any given meter size. The preamble to the amended bill outlines WSSC Water’s desire to create a distinction between commercial and residential customers who have a 1.5-inch meter size for the purpose of imposing the fixed rate Account Maintenance Fee and Infrastructure Investment Fee. According to WSSC Water, there are 4,858 customers with 1.5-inch meters, of which 969 are residential customers, and that the combined fixed rate quarterly charge for customers with 1.5 inch meters is \$169, as compared to the combined fixed rate quarterly charge of \$26 for residential customers with a 1 inch meter. Although the preamble to the bill refers only to concerns about 1.5-inch meters, the amended bill would give WSSC Water authority to create customer classes within any meter size.

The County Executive and County Council support the bill as amended by the Montgomery County House Delegation and respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee vote favorable on the bill with those amendments.