MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION 2024

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of February 10, 2024

(*Note: Bills and Position Statements are hyperlinked*)

WSSC Water Sponsored Legislation

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 1024 PG/MC 101-24	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program – Expansion** The proposed legislation will allow for the expansion of the Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program authorized by §23-205 of the Maryland Annotated Code Public Utilities Article to include sewer service line repair or replacement, sewer line camera investigation or snaking, as well as increase the maximum loan amount to $10,000. The request would also extend the sunset to 2034 and raise the maximum total loan amount allowed at one time.	**SUPPORT**	Positions: MCCE – Support MCCC – Support MCMWC – Support MCHD – Support PGCE – Support PGCC – Support PGGAC – Support PGBCC - Support PGHD – Support Assigned to the Environment and Transportation Committee

WSSC Water-Related Legislation

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 101	**State Highway Projects - Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities - Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance (Charkoudian)** Requiring the State Highway Administration to provide certain notices to the owner or operator of a	**OPPOSE**	Dually assigned to Environment & Transportation and Economic Matters **Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM** MML – Oppose MACo – Oppose MAMWA – Oppose

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	utility facility for the removal, relocation, or adjustment of the utility facility for a State highway project. The bill would require the owner or operator of the utility facility to provide work plans to the Administration within a certain number of days and require the owner or operator of a utility facility to pay for certain costs and damages under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain utility from recovering through rates certain costs.		
SB 993	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Review and Credit for Construction of Facility** Requiring the Office of the Inspector General of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to complete a review of a certain facility within 60 days after receiving confirmation that the construction of the facility is complete; requiring the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to grant the developer of the facility a certain credit against a certain system development charge within 60 days after the review is completed; requiring the Commission to pay a certain penalty and interest under certain circumstances; etc.	**UNDER REVIEW**	In the Senate – Hearing 3/07/2024 at 1:00 PM
SB 1 (HB 267)	**Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection (Augustine)** Establishing an energy salesperson license for certain persons that offer or sell electricity or gas supply agreements to customers in the State; providing for the terms of electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses issued by the Public	**HOLD**	Assigned to Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate – Hearing 1/25/2024 at 2:00 PM In the House – Hearing 2/15/2024 at 1:00 PM

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	Service Commission; establishing certain licensing and renewal requirements.		
HB 24 (SB 96)	**Environment – Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions (Boyce)** Requiring MDE to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation regarding the impact of issuing approval for certain environmental permits; requiring MDE to provide opportunities for residents of the State to opt-in to text, phone, e-mail, or regular mail notifications regarding any facility with a pending or final permit approval in or adjacent to the resident's census tract; altering certain reporting requirements.	**MONITOR**	Dually assigned to Environment & Transportation and Economic Matters In the House - Hearing 2/21/2024 at 1:00 p.m.
HB 219	**Natural Resources – Removal of Trees or Shrubs – Notice and Objection (Guyton and Ruth)** Authorizing a utility or local government to remove a tree or shrub on private property under certain circumstances, including requiring the utility or local government to provide certain notice to the owner of the property on which the tree or shrub is located. The bill would also establish a process for a private property owner who receives notice to file an objection with the Department of Natural Resources.	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Economic Matters MACo: No Position MML: Monitor MAMWA: Support with Amendments

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HB 158 SB 31	**Courts – Prohibited Indemnity & Defense Liability Agreements (Cardin, et al)** Prohibiting a provision in a contract or agreement relating to architectural, engineering, inspecting, or surveying services that requires the promisor to defend a promise against claims brought by a third party.	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Judiciary
HB 908	**Environment - Suppliers of Water - Notification Requirements (Amprey)** Altering certain notice requirements that a supplier of water must give to the Department of the Environment and certain individuals and entities under certain circumstances; requiring a supplier of water to give notice to the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management if there is a positive test for E. coli in the system and immediately begin certain preparations; requiring each community water system to ensure that certain testing is performed on water provided by the system; etc	**INFORMATION**	Assigned to Environment and Transportation MACo: No Position/Letter of Information MML: MAMWA: In the House - Hearing 2/23 at 1:00 p.m.
SB 401	**SB 401 Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Authority - Utilities Installation - Data Submission (Kagan)** Requiring a utility owner to submit to DOT and the Maryland Transportation Authority, within 60 days after completion, certain information pertaining to the installation or relocation of facilities, infrastructure, or appurtenances associated with a utility service within or on certain property; and authorizing DOT or the	**HOLD**	Assigned to Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 02/15/2024 MML: Hold MACo: NP

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	Authority to take certain actions if utility owner does not comply.		
SB 431	**Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumption – Long COVID (Home of the Brave Act of 2024) (Waldstreicher, et al)** Establishing that governmental essential workers are presumed to have an occupational disease that is compensable under workers' compensation law after being diagnosed with long COVID under certain circumstances and applying the Act retroactively.	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Finance In the Senate – Hearing MML: Oppose MACo: Oppose
SB 572	**Environment – Collection and Reporting of Drinking Water and Wastewater Documents, Data, and Information – Requirements (M. Washington)** Requiring a water utility to post on its website or provide to the Department of the Environment certain documents, data, and information.	**NO POSITION**	Assigned to Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate – Hearing 2/6/2024 at 1:00 PM MML: Support with Amendments MACo: Support with Amendments MDE: Oppose
SB 710	**Water Utilities Shutoff Prevention (M. Washington)** Authorizing a certain water utility to temporarily shut off service for reasons of health or safety or in a State or national emergency, notwithstanding certain provisions of law; prohibiting a water utility from shutting off service for certain reasons; prohibiting a water utility from shutting off service on receipt of certain information; and prohibiting the	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m.

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	sale of property solely to enforce a lien imposed for unpaid water, sewer, or sanitary system charges, fees, or assessments except in certain circumstances.		
SB 653 HB 101	**Standing – Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Proceedings (Clean Water Justice Act of 2024) Augustine** Providing certain persons and associations standing in environmental and natural resources protection proceedings, including proceedings arising under provisions of law relating to water quality and water resources protection, subject to certain conditions; authorizing persons that meet standing requirements to bring certain civil actions under certain circumstances; authorizing a court to grant certain relief, award certain costs, and impose certain civil penalties in certain civil actions under certain circumstances; etc.	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Education, Energy, and Environment and Environment and Transportation MACo: Oppose MML: Oppose MAMWA: Oppose In the Senate – Hearing 2/27/2024 at 1 PM In the House – Hearing 3/02/2024 at 1 PM
SB 956 HB 1153	**Environment - Water Pollution Control - Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution (Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution Act) (Hester)** Establishing the discharge limit for PFAS chemicals in any water, including stormwater, discharged from a significant industrial user to be 4 parts per trillion; requiring a significant industrial user to reduce PFAS chemicals from the water it discharges to a publicly owned treatment works in a certain manner; requiring a	**HOLD**	In the Senate- Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m. MML: MACo:

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	significant industrial user to store, reuse, and dispose of certain PFAS chemicals in a certain manner; etc.		
HB 1055	**Environment – Highways – Salt Application (Qi)** Requiring each State agency, county, and municipality to maintain certain records of its highway salt application and submit to the Department of the Environment by July 1 each year a report on its highway salt application for the previous winter season.	**HOLD**	Assigned to Environment and Transportation
HB 1241	**Environment - Polyvinyl Chloride and Chlorinated Polyvinyl Water Piping – Prohibition** Prohibiting a person from using certain polyvinyl chloride or chlorinated polyvinyl chloride piping in the installation, repair, or replacement of a water pipe or plumbing intended to dispense water for human consumption beginning January 1, 2025; and establishing the Water Pipe Safety Workgroup.	**UNDER REVIEW**	Assigned to Environment and Transportation In the House - Hearing 3/06 at 1:00 p.m.

Legislation of Interest

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 139 SB 171	**Landlord and Tenant – Office of Home Energy Programs – Financial Assistance (Charkoudian)** To require a landlord to accept financial assistance from the Office of Home Energy Programs in the Department of Human Services for the cost of utility services that a tenant is required to pay; requiring a landlord, under certain circumstances, to provide a tenant with utility service documentation that is necessary to determine the eligibility of the tenant for financial assistance.	**MONITOR**	Assigned to Environment and Transportation Sponsor's Fact Sheet
SB 148	**Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities (Washington)** Requiring at least 40% of funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to be used for projects located in or directly benefiting underserved or overburdened communities; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least $20,000,000 for the comprehensive flood management grant program in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.	**MONITOR**	Dually assigned to Budget and Tax & Education Energy, and Environment
HB 842	**Environmental Justice - Investment in Infrastructure Construction Projects (Taveras, et al.)** Requiring a State agency, in administering certain federal funds, to allocate 40% of those funds to infrastructure construction projects in overburdened communities and underserved communities and an additional 40% of those funds to infrastructure construction projects in communities of color and communities with a high percentage of low- to moderate-income households in the State; establishing the Justice40 Committee; etc.	**MONITOR**	Dually assigned to Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

Update on Governor's Proposed Budget FY2025 Grant Request

WSSC Water's request for the renewal of the MD Water Assistance Grant was not included in the FY2025 Governor's Proposed Budget. Staff is working with our advocacy team to submit a supplemental budget request once the guidelines are released for making those requests. Additionally, the Advocacy team will be reaching out to the City of Baltimore regarding their advocacy efforts for customer assistance.

Positions

MCCC = Montgomery County Council: MCCE = Montgomery County Executive; MCHD = Montgomery County House Delegation; MCMWC=Montgomery County House Delegation Metro Washington Committee; MCSD =Montgomery County Senate Delegation; PGCC = Prince George's County Council

PGCE = Prince George's County Executive; PGHD = Prince George's House Delegation; PGBCC= Prince George's County House Delegation Bi-County Committee; PGSD = Prince George's Senate Delegation

Key Dates

- February 9, 2024 – House Bill Introduction Date
- March 18, 2024 – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date
- April 1, 2024 – Budget Bill to be passed by both Chambers
- April 8, 2024 – Sine Die

Websites

Maryland General Assembly

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Montgomery County Delegation

Prince George's County Delegation