MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION 2023

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of March 17, 2023
(*Note: Bills and Position Statements are hyperlinked*)

WSSC Water Sponsored Legislation

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 783 (MC/PG 101-23)	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program – Revisions and Extension** Updates, modernizes, streamlines, and strengthens provisions pertaining to WSSC Water's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Utilization Program, including extending the Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion's statutory authority to have an MBE program for five (5) years, ending on June 30, 2028.	**SUPPORT** (10/19/2022)	Hearings: House Government and Operations 3/6/2023 Positions: MCHD – FWA (3/10/2023) PGHD – FWA (2/24/2023) MCCE – Support MCCC – Support

WSSC Water Related Legislation

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 872 (MC/PG 111-23)	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service in Regional Transit Districts in Prince George's County (O.B.O. Prince George's County Executive)** Authorizes WSSC Water to enter into contracts with the District of Columbia or DC Water for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a water supply, sewer, or drainage system for properties located in a regional transit district in Prince George's County.	**NO POSITION** (2/23/2023)	Hearings: House Environment & Transportation TBD Positions: MCHD – FWA (3/17/2023) PGHD – FWA (3/10/2023)

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 873 (MC/PG 108-23)	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Commissioner Qualifications and General Manager Voting Powers (Holmes)** As amended, the bill requires at least one Commissioner from Prince George's County to have specified qualifications.	Monitor	Hearings: House Environment & Transportation TBD Positions: MCHD – FWA (3/17/2023) PGHD – FWA (3/10/2023)
HB 1007 (MC/PG 110-23)	**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership – Alterations (Taveras)** Adds the general manager of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission as a member of the Commission; and requiring that one commissioner from Prince George's County and one commissioner from Montgomery County be a subject matter expert in the area of water conservation, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, environmental engineering, or chemical engineering.	Monitor	**WITHDRAWN** Certain provisions of HB 1007 were incorporated into HB 873.

Positions

MCCC = Montgomery County Council: MCCE = Montgomery County Executive; MCHD = Montgomery County House Delegation; MCSD =Montgomery County Senate Delegation; PGCC = Prince George's County Council PGCE = Prince George's County Executive; PGHD = Prince George's House Delegation; PGSD = Prince George's Senate Delegation

Legislation of Interest

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 20	**Vehicle Laws – Horse Riding – Helmet Requirement for Minors (Lehman)** Prohibits an adult from allowing a minor to ride a horse on certain property unless the minor is wearing a helmet.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Judicial Proceedings 3/22/2023 1:00pm Passed House (125-12)

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 106 (SB 50)	**State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (Williams)** Prohibits the State (or any unit or instrumentality of the State) from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation (Maglev) transportation system located or to be located in the State. The bill does not apply to expenditures for the salaries of personnel assigned to review permits or other forms of approval for a Maglev transportation system.	Monitor	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation (Appropriations) 2/23/2023
HB 111 (SB 26)	**Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment (Charkoudian)** Requires the Office of Home Energy Programs to enroll individuals, who meet certain financial eligibility requirements, in energy assistance programs.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance Passed House (99-36)
HB 165	**General Provisions – Standard Time – Year-Round Daylight Saving Time (Crosby)** Alters the standard time in the State to be Eastern Daylight Time year-round. The Act is contingent on the enactment of similar legislation by Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia by December 31, 2028.	Monitor	Hearing: House Government and Operations 2/15/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 181 (SB 197)	**Four-Day Workweek Pilot Program and Income Tax Credit – Established (Four–Day Workweek Act of 2023) (Stewart)** Establishes the Four-Day Workweek Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Labor for the purpose of promoting, incentivizing, and supporting the experimentation and study of the use of a 4-day workweek by private and public employers.	Monitor	**WITHDRAWN**
HB 198	**Wastewater Treatment Plants – Water Quality Testing and Sewage Overflow and Pipeline Breakage Notification (Environmental Accountability Act of 2023) (R. Long)** Requires an independent third party to oversee all water quality testing conducted at a wastewater treatment plant that falsifies or does not accurately report water quality test results to the Department of the Environment or is experiencing a catastrophic or continuing mechanical failure of operational equipment. Establishes notification requirements for sanitary sewage overflows and sewage pipe breaks.	Monitor	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 2/8/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 207 (SB 291)	**Courts – Prohibited Liability Agreements – Recreational Facilities (Moon)** Establishes that a provision in a contract or agreement relating to the use of a recreational facility that purports to release the recreational facility from, or indemnify or hold harmless the recreational facility against, liability for bodily injury is void and unenforceable when the bodily injury is caused by or results from the negligence or other wrongful act of the recreational facility or its agents or employees.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Judicial Proceedings Passed House (135-3)
HB 216	**Environment – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment (Qi)** Requires the Department of the Environment to establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program to encourage efficient winter maintenance of roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks through the use of salt or salt alternatives.	**SUPPORT**	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 2/8/2023
HB 296 (SB 6)	**Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans – Automatic Enrollment (Bridges)** Requires the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans to implement an automatic enrollment arrangement for State employees who are hired on or after January 1, 2024.	Monitor	Hearing: House Appropriations 2/14/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 323	**Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment (Charkoudian)** As amended, the bill requires the Office of Home Energy Programs to enroll any household in any fuel and utility assistance programs if any individuals in the household are qualified to receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, or means-tested Veteran Affairs benefits.	**SUPPORT**	Hearing: House Economic Matters 2/16/2023
HB 499 (SB 225)	**Environment – Publicly Owned Treatment Works – PFAS Monitoring (Love)** Requires the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works to monitor and report the levels of certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in effluent, influent, and biosolids. **In early 2020, WSSC Water resumed quarterly PFAS testing in water from both of our filtration plants. Pursuant to the conditions of the NPDES permit for the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility, WSSC Water is required to perform quarterly analytical testing for PFAS compounds in the effluent at the plant.**	Monitor	**WITHDRAWN**

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 538 (SB 380)	**Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Water Affordability Assistance (Love)** Allows for a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain water affordability assistance, including water bill arrearage forgiveness, received by an individual during the taxable year and provided by the federal government, the State, or a local government. Requires a unit of State government or a local government that administers a water affordability assistance program to provide to the Comptroller, within 30 days of the request.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Budget and Taxation TBD Passed House (139-0)
HB 549 (SB 555)	**Fair Wage Act of 2023 (Administration)** Increases the State minimum wage rate to $15.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2023. Beginning March 1, 2025, the State minimum wage will increase by the lesser of 5% or the average percentage growth in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period. The new minimum wage increase will go into effect annually on July 1st.	Monitor	Hearing: House Economic Matters 2/27/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 624	**Environment – Suppliers of Water – Notification Requirements (Amprey)** Alters the means by which a supplier of water must give notice to the Department of the Environment (MDE) and persons served by the water system for specified circumstances. Additionally, the bill requires a water supplier to provide notice MDE and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) if there is a positive test for E. Coli in the water system. **WSSC Water presently utilizes several of the prescribed notification methods as well as the FCC's Wireless Emergency Alerts system when issuing boil water advisories.**	Monitor	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 2/22/2023
HB 630	**Public Utilities – Primary and Secondary Account Holders – Domestic Violence Protections (Queen)** As amended, the bill authorizes a utility account holder to terminate the account holder's future liability under a utility contract if the individual is a victim of abuse, subject to specified notice and documentation requirements. The utility must allow for the termination, provided prescribed requirements are met. An account holder who terminates a utility contract under the bill is responsible for utility charges only up to and including the billing cycle during which written notice is submitted to the utility as part of the termination process. Additionally, the utility must allow the account holder to open a new utility account for a new premises, notwithstanding an account balance or arrearage at the former premises.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment TBD Passed House (133-0)

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 843 (SB 880)	**Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force (Smith)** Establishes the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment TBD Passed House (133-4)
HB 893 (SB 883)	**Environment – Water Utilities – Shutoff Protections (Water Access for All Protection Act) (Love)** Prohibits water utilities from shutting off service for specified reasons. Additionally, the proposed legislation prohibits the sale of property to solely to enforce a lien imposed for unpaid water, sewer, or sanitary system charges, fees or assessments.	Monitor	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 3/1/2023
HB 900 (SB 355)	**Occupational Safety and Health – Public Buildings – Indoor Air Quality (Kerr)** Requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, in consultation with the Secretary of the Environment, the Secretary of Health, and the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, to adopt a comprehensive indoor air quality standard for public buildings on or before October 31, 2025.	Monitor	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 3/9/2023
HB 988 (SB 828)	**Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications (Qi)** Modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program by clarifying provisions relating to the administration of the Program, including provisions related to the provision of benefits, the payment of contributions, and appeals. Additionally, establishes the employer and employee will each contribute 50% of the total contribution.	Monitor	Hearing: House Economic Matters 3/7/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 1292 (SB 970)	**Fire Protection and Prevention - Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms - Requirements (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act) (Charkoudian)** Requires the installation of smoke alarms in public corridors accessible by units in high-rise buildings. Additionally, requires all high-rise buildings to have automatic sprinkler systems by January 1, 2033, unless all units have existing exit access as provided in NFPA101: Life Safety Code. Current law requires high-rise buildings constructed after July 1, 1974, to be protected by automatic sprinkler systems.	Monitor	Hearing: House Rules and Executive Nominations
SB 6 (HB 296)	**Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans – Automatic Enrollment (McCray)** Requires the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans to implement an automatic enrollment arrangement for State employees who are hired on or after January 1, 2024.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Budget and Taxation 1/19/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 26 (HB 111)	**Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment (Augustine)** Requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish an Express Lane Eligibility Program by January 1, 2025, to enroll individuals, based on certain eligibility, in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children's Health Program. Additionally, requires the Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance to submit a final report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2024, of its findings and recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes.	Monitor	Hearing: House Health and Government Operations 3/21/2023 1:00pm Passed Senate (45-0)
SB 50 (HB 106)	**State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (Williams)** Prohibits the State (or any unit or instrumentality of the State) from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation (Maglev) transportation system located or to be located in the State. The bill does not apply to expenditures for the salaries of personnel assigned to review permits or other forms of approval for a Maglev transportation system.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Budget and Taxation (Education, Energy, and the Environment) 1/25/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 81	**Labor and Employment – State Minimum Wage Rate – Acceleration (Fight for Fifteen Acceleration Act of 2023) (Waldstreicher)** Increases the State minimum wage rate to $15 for employers of 15 employees or more beginning on July 1, 2023, and repeals the authority of the Board of Public Works to temporarily suspend an increase to the minimum wage rate.	Monitor	**WITHDRAWN**
SB 197 (HB 181)	**Four–Day Workweek Pilot Program and Income Tax Credit – Established (Four-Day Workweek Act of 2023) (Hettleman)** Establishes the Four-Day Workweek Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Labor for the purpose of promoting, incentivizing, and supporting the experimentation and study of the use of a 4-day workweek by private and public employers.	Monitor	**WITHDRAWN**
SB 214	**Employment – Harassment and Intimidation – Reporting (Workplace Psychological Safety Act) (Ellis)** Establishes requirements related to the reporting of incidents of employee harassment and intimidation, including provisions regarding the reporting of incidents by employers to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry and creating a standardized reporting form.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance 2/9/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 225 (HB 499)	**Environment – Publicly Owned Treatment Works – PFAS Monitoring (Elfreth)** Requires the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works to monitor and report the levels of certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in effluent, influent, and biosolids. **In early 2020, WSSC Water resumed quarterly PFAS testing in water from both of our filtration plants. Pursuant to the conditions of the NPDES permit for the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility, WSSC Water is required to perform quarterly analytical testing for PFAS compounds in the effluent at the plant.**		**WITHDRAWN**
SB 291 (HB 207)	**Courts – Prohibited Liability Agreements – Recreational Facilities (Carter)** Establishes that a provision in a contract or agreement relating to the use of a recreational facility that purports to release the recreational facility from, limit, or indemnify or hold harmless the recreational facility against liability for bodily injury is void and unenforceable when the bodily injury is caused by or results from the negligence or other wrongful act of the recreational facility or its agents or employees.	Monitor	Hearing: House Judiciary Passed Senate (35-11)

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 355 (HB 900)	**Occupational Safety and Health – Public Buildings – Indoor Air Quality (Beidle)** Requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, in consultation with the Secretary of the Environment, the Secretary of Health, and the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, to adopt a comprehensive indoor air quality standard for public buildings on or before October 31, 2025.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance 2/23/2023
SB 380 (HB 538)	**Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Water Affordability Assistance (M. Washington)** Allows for a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain water affordability assistance, including water bill arrearage forgiveness, received by an individual during the taxable year and provided by the federal government, the State, or a local government. Requires a unit of State government or a local government that administers a water affordability assistance program to provide to the Comptroller, within 30 days of the request.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Budget and Taxation 2/22/2023
SB 392	**Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program – Establishment (McCray)** Establishing the Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program for the purpose of providing competitive grants for publicly owned wastewater facilities facing operations and maintenance challenges that threaten the proper functioning of a facility's enhanced nutrient removal technology.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/15/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 447 (HB 847)	**Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup (Carozza)** Establishes an Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup to study, identify, examine, and make recommendations on aspects of anaerobic digestion.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/15/2023
SB 512	**Drinking Water – Legionella Pneumophila Bacterium – Minimizing Growth and Transmission (Lam)** Requires an owner or operator of a public water system to maintain a detectable residual disinfectant level of at least 0.5 milligrams per liter of chlorine, not to exceed the maximum residual disinfectant level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the water distribution system and to conduct certain sampling and analysis at frequent and regular intervals. Requires an owner or operator of a public water system to provide prescribed notice of certain water distribution system disruptions.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/15/2023
SB 513	**Environment – Collection and Reporting of Drinking Water and Wastewater Data and Information – Requirements (Lam)** Requires a water utility operating in the State to provide prescribed data and information to the Department of the Environment (MDE) and comply with monthly or annual reporting requirements. MDE will be tasked with developing protocols and forms for reporting of water and wastewater data and information in addition to creating, operating and maintaining a statewide Open Water Data Reporting Platform.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/23/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 531	**Public Water Systems – Supplier Requirements (Water Safety and Cybersecurity Act of 2023) (Klausmeier)** Requires a supplier of water to inspect valves in a public water system in a certain manner, repair or replace specified valves, inspect specified fire hydrants, formulate and implement a certain plan, identify the locations of certain valves, and record certain characteristics and identifiers of certain valves; requiring a supplier of water to develop a certain cybersecurity program by February 1, 2024. **This bill does not apply to WSSC Water as drafted.**	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/23/2023
SB 555 (HB 549)	**Fair Wage Act of 2023 (Administration)** Increases the State minimum wage rate to $15.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2023. Beginning March 1, 2025, the State minimum wage will increase by the lesser of 5% or the average percentage growth in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period. The new minimum wage increase will go into effect annually on July 1st.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance 3/2/2023
SB 828 (HB 988)	**Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications (Hayes)** Modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program by clarifying provisions relating to the administration of the Program, including provisions related to the provision of benefits, the payment of contributions, and appeals. Additionally, establishes the employer and employee will each contribute 50% of the total contribution.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance 3/2/2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 880 (HB 843)	**Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force (Sydnor)** Establishes the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/15/2023 1:00 pm
SB 883 (HB 893)	**Environment – Water Utilities – Shutoff Protections (Water Access for All Protection Act) (M. Washington)** Prohibits water utilities from shutting off service for specified reasons. Additionally, the proposed legislation prohibits the sale of property to solely to enforce a lien imposed for unpaid water, sewer, or sanitary system charges, fees or assessments.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
SB 970 (HB 1292)	**Fire Protection and Prevention – Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms – Requirements (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act) (Smith)** Requires the installation of smoke alarms in public corridors accessible by units in high-rise buildings. Additionally, requires all high-rise buildings to have automatic sprinkler systems by January 1, 2033, unless all units have existing exit access as provided in NFPA101: Life Safety Code. Current law requires high-rise buildings constructed after July 1, 1974, to be protected by automatic sprinkler systems.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Education, Health, and the Environment 3/16/2023

Key Dates

- March 20, 2023 – Crossover
- April 10, 2023 – Sine Die

Websites

- Maryland General Assembly: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/
- 2023 Session Calendar (PDF): https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/Other/2023rs-Session-dates.pdf
- Track Legislation**:** http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmTrackingMain.aspx?pid=trackpage
- Montgomery County Delegation: http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/
- Prince George's County Delegation: https://www.princegeorgeshousedelegation.com/