MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION 2024

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of April 9, 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**	**PASSED** Positions: MCCE – Support MCCC – Support MCMWC – Support MCHD – Support PGCE – Support PGCC – Support PGGAC – Support PGBCC - Support PGHD – Support

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**	**Referred to interim study by Economic Matters** Positions 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.	**NO POSITION**	**SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
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 Service Commission; establishing	**MONITOR**	**PASSED**

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	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**	**HOUSE – PASSED** **SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
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**	**WITHDRAWN**

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
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**	**WITHDRAWN**
HB 649	**Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency (White Holland, et al.)** Altering the requirement that an employer disclose certain wage information to an applicant for employment; requiring an employer to disclose certain wage information in certain postings and to certain employees at certain times; requiring an employer to set the wage range disclosed in good faith; requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to develop and make available to employers a form that an employer may use to comply with certain wage disclosure requirements; prohibiting certain retaliatory action by an employer; etc.	**MONITOR**	**PASSED**
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	**MONITOR**	**WITHDRAWN**

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	preparations; requiring each community water system to ensure that certain testing is performed on water provided by the system; etc.		
SB 401 HB 917	**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 Authority to take certain actions if utility owner does not comply.	**MONITOR**	**SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
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**	**SENATE – NO ACTION** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
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**	**SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
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 sale of property solely to enforce a lien imposed for unpaid water, sewer, or sanitary system charges, fees, or assessments except in certain circumstances.	**MONITOR**	**SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
SB 653 HB 1101	**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	**MONITOR**	**BOTH BILLS PASSED**

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
	relief, award certain costs, and impose certain civil penalties in certain civil actions under certain circumstances; etc.		
SB 956 HB 1153	**Environment - Water Pollution Control - Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution (Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution Act) (Hester)** Requiring the Department of the Environment to identify in a certain manner the significant industrial users that currently and intentionally use PFAS chemicals by October 1, 2024; requiring the Department to develop certain PFAS monitoring and testing criteria for certain users in a certain manner by January 1, 2025; requiring the Department to develop certain PFAS action levels and certain mitigation plans in a certain manner by June 1, 2025; requiring the Department to update its PFAS Action Plan by December 1, 2025; etc..	**MONITOR**	**BOTH BILLS PASSED**
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.	**SUPPORT W/AMENDMENT**	**HOUSE – PASSED** **SENATE – FAILED ON THIRD READER** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 1241	**Environment - Polyvinyl Chloride and Chlorinated Polyvinyl Water Piping – Prohibition (Ruth)** 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.		**HOUSE – NO ACTION TAKEN**
SB 511 HB 650	**Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons (Washington)** Requiring the Secretary of Labor to adopt regulations establishing a ratio of three apprentices to one journeyperson for each nontraditional trade occupation and newly registered occupation.	**MONITOR**	**BOTH BILLS PASSED**
SB 818 HB 1271	**Information Technology - Artificial Intelligence - Policies and Procedures (Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024) (Hester, et al.)** Requiring each unit of State government to conduct certain inventories and assessments; requiring the Department of Information Technology to conduct certain monitoring and adopt certain policies and procedures; prohibiting a unit of State government from implementing or using a system that employs artificial intelligence under certain circumstances; establishing the Governor's Artificial Intelligence Subcabinet of the Governor's Executive Council; allowing the Governor to appropriate up to	**MONITOR**	**BILL PASSED**

Bill #	Title (Sponsor)/Description	Position	Status/Notes
	$3,000,000 annually for the Subcabinet; etc.		
HB 712	**Public Information Act - Denials - Confidential Information (Rosenberg)** Establishing that a custodian is required to deny inspection of certain confidential information only if the disclosure is likely to result in substantial competitive harm to the person from which the information was obtained; and establishing that a custodian may deny inspection of certain confidential information only if the disclosure is likely to result in substantial competitive harm to the entity that owns the information.	**MONITOR**	**WITHDRAWN**

Legislation of Interest

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 139 SB 171	**Landlord and Tenant - Notice of Utility Bills in Residential Leases - Gas and Electric Service** Adding gas and electric utility services to the types of services for which certain landlords are required to provide a certain notice in a written lease and a copy of a certain receipt or bill summary under certain circumstances.	**MONITOR**	**BOTH BILLS PASSED**

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 586 HB 503	**Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibition (Brooks, et al)** Prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or distribution of corrugated stainless steel tubing that does not meet a certain International Code Council standard; requiring certain tubing used in the construction of fuel gas piping systems in certain buildings to meet a certain standard; and providing a civil penalties of up to $1,000 for a violation of the Act.	**MONITOR**	**SENATE – FAILED TO TAKE ACTION**
SB 148 HB 449	**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**	**BOTH BILLS PASSED**
HB 841	**Environment - Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction - Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting (Ruth, et al)** Requiring that a water bottle filling station be installed in certain new construction beginning October 1, 2024; requiring MDE to conduct a certain survey, gather certain data, and identify alternative methods for providing drinking water on or before October 1, 2025; and requiring MDE, on or before Dec. 1, 2025, to submit	**MONITOR**	**HOUSE – PASSED** **SENATE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**

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	the survey and alternative methods to the Governor and General Assembly.		
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**	**HOUSE – NO ACTION TAKEN** **BILL FAILED TO PASS**
HB 1147	**Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials – Prohibitions** Prohibiting, on or after October 1, 2024, a person from installing, supplying, selling, soliciting, or offering for sale playground surfacing materials that contain a certain concentration of lead or a component product, material, or substance to which PFAS chemicals were previously intentionally added for certain purposes; prohibiting a county, municipality, or unit of local government from adopting any ordinance, rule, or regulation related to playground surfacing materials that is less stringent than of the Act.	**MONITOR**	**BILL PASSED**

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

May 14, 2024 - Maryland Presidential Primary Election

Websites

Maryland General Assembly
- Session Calendar (PDF)
- Track Legislation

Montgomery County Delegation
Prince George's County Delegation
Maryland Association of Counties
Maryland Municipal League