MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION 2023

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of February 10, 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: PGHD Bi-County Committee 2/16/2023 9:00 am MCHD Metro Washington Area Committee 1/16/2023 Hold House Government and Operations Positions: MCCE – Support MCCC – Support

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: House Government and Operations 2/2/2023
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 1:00 pm
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: House Government and Operations 2/7/2023
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 1:00 pm

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	Hearing: House Economic Matters (Ways and Means) 2/14/2023 1:00 pm
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.	Pending	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: House Judiciary 2/1/2023
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.	Pending	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 1:00 pm

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
HB 323	**Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment (Charkoudian)** Requires the Department of Human Services to enroll individuals, who meet financial eligibility requirements, in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Requires the Office of Home Energy Programs to enroll individuals in assistance programs if the individuals are qualified to receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, or means-tested Veteran Affairs benefits.	Pending	Hearing: House Economic Matters 2/16/2023 1:00 pm
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.**	Pending	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 2/17/2023 1:00 pm

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: House Ways and Means 2/16/2023 1:00 pm
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: House Economic Matters 2/27/2023 1:00 pm

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.**	Pending	Hearing: House Environment and Transportation 2/22/2023 1:00 pm
HB 630	**Public Utilities – Primary and Secondary Account Holders – Domestic Violence Protections (Queen)** Requiring utilities to release a primary or secondary account holder who is the victim of domestic violence from a contract held with the utility under certain circumstances; and requiring a utility to make information about the options and process described in the Act available to customers on any website, mobile application, and other forms of public-facing customer communication the utility maintains.	Monitor	Hearing: House Economic Matters 2/16/2023 1:00 pm

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
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
SB 26 (HB 111)	**Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment (Augustine)** Requires the Office of Home Energy Programs to enroll individuals, who meet certain financial eligibility requirements, in energy assistance programs.	Monitor	Hearing: Senate Finance 2/2/2023
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 State 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	Hearing: Senate Finance 2/9/2023
SB 214	**Employment – Harassment and Intimidation – Reporting (Workplace Psychological Safety Act) (Ellis)** Establishes the 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 the creation of 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: Senate Judicial Proceedings 2/16/2023 1:00 pm

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 355	**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.	Under Review	Hearing: Senate Finance 2/23/2023 1:00 pm
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.	Under Review	Hearing: Senate Budget and Taxation 2/22/2023 1:00 pm
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 1:00 pm

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
SB 447	**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 1:00 pm
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.	Pending	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/15/2023 1:00 pm
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.	Pending	Hearing: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/23/2023 1:00 pm

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 1:00 pm

Key Dates

- February 10, 2023 – Senate Bill Introduction Date
- February 16, 2023 – Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Work Session – 9:00 a.m.
- 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/