



The Annapolis Observer

January 16, 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bi-County Bills	2
Maryland Bills to Watch	4
Week At A Glance	5
County Information	5
Annapolis Info	6
About IRO	6

What to Expect

This publication is designed to keep you informed about legislation impacting WSSC during the 2009 Maryland General Assembly Session. Previous issues of the *Observer* are available on the Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO) webpage www.wsscwater.com/iro/website.

The Intergovernmental Relations Office is your eyes and ears in Annapolis. The *Observer* provides brief updates on major initiatives that could impact the Agency. If you have any questions or would like another bill included in this publication, please contact the WSSC IRO at 301-206-8228.

January Dates of Interest

1/21/2009	Final date for Governor to introduce budget bill
1/29/2009	Governor delivers the State of the State Address

Legislative Lingo

“How A Bill Becomes A Law... Annapolis Style”

The legislative process, or "how a bill becomes a law," is dynamic and complex. The idea or concept contained in a bill passes through many steps before it becomes law. Ideas or concepts for bills come from many sources--constituents and other private citizens, interest groups, and legislative study groups, for example. While the ideas come from many places, only a legislator may actually sponsor and introduce a bill in the General Assembly.

If a legislator agrees to sponsor legislation, the bill is drafted by legislative staff for the legislator's approval. Bills or resolutions are introduced according to deadlines and guidelines established by the Maryland Constitution, the rules of the Senate and the House of Delegates, and the Laws of Maryland. With some restrictions, most bills may be introduced in either chamber during the first 55 days of a session. After that, bills may be introduced only with the consent of two-thirds of the membership of the House or Senate.

Bills of Interest to WSSC

Keep in mind dates shown are a mix of calendar days and legislative days. Dates provided reflect those posted on the General Assembly website.

Bi-County Bills

PG/MC 101-09 Montgomery County – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Financial Oversight Act - This bill amends the Sanitary District Laws to require the WSSC to file a certified copy of its annual audit and current financial statements each year with the Montgomery County Council AND it authorizes the County Council of Montgomery County to audit and examine the books and records of the Commission under certain circumstances as long as such an audit or examination is without cost to the WSSC. Current law contains these requirements for the Montgomery County Executive, Prince George’s County Executive and the Prince George’s County Council.

PG/MC 101-09 Positions	
WSSC	No Position at this time
Montgomery County Council	Support
Montgomery County Executive	Support
Prince George’s County Council	
Prince George’s County Executive	

PG/MC 101-09 Bill Status
Montgomery County House Delegation
Prince George’s County House Delegation
Montgomery County Senate Delegation
Prince George’s County Senate Delegation
House
Senate

PG/MC 104-09 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Surcharge - Exemptions – This bill expands current law regarding the WSSC’s SDC exemptions from those community based organizations whose “exclusive” use of the property is to provide programs and services to youth whose property those whose “primary” use of the property is to provide programs and services to youth. Additionally, this bill changes the current law’s sunset from 2009 to 2012.

PG/MC 104-09 Positions	
WSSC	Support
Montgomery County Council	No Position
Montgomery County Executive	No Position
Prince George’s County Council	Support
Prince George’s County Executive	

PG/MC 104-09 Bill Status

Prince George's County House Delegation

Montgomery County House Delegation

Prince George's County Senate Delegation

Montgomery County Senate Delegation

House

Senate

PG/MC 105-09 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Budget Approval - This bill provides that if the county councils of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties fail to concur on the WSSC capital budget or any provision within the capital budget by a certain time, the funding levels may not exceed the previous year's funding levels. The bill includes language that allows a single line item to be rejected for any single capital budget project, similar to a line item veto. The WSSC believes this bill would have a negative impact on the Agency should it become law for several reasons. First, the construction industry may find it problematic to bid under such uncertainty. If projects were cancelled, vetoed, or financially constrained after awarded, it would be costly to the WSSC and the ratepayers. Additionally, projects including MBE and SLBE subcontractors could potentially be delayed, creating a detrimental impact on these businesses. Second, there could be a negative impact on facilities included in the 30 Year Infrastructure Plan to recapitalize the WSSC's aging infrastructure. Third, the WSSC AAA Bond Rating would be in jeopardy given the importance rating agencies place on governance of public entities in their rating criteria. Finally, the WSSC could face IRS penalties if the Agency's ability to spend bond money in a timely manner was hampered and arbitrage rules broken.

PG/MC 105-09 Positions

WSSC Oppose

Montgomery County Council Oppose

Montgomery County Executive Oppose

Prince George's County Council Support

Prince George's County Executive

PG/MC 105-09 Bill Status

Prince George's County House Delegation

Montgomery County House Delegation

Prince George's County Senate Delegation

Montgomery County Senate Delegation

House

Senate



Maryland Bills To Watch

Stay tuned for statewide bills of interest the WSSC is watching in this section.

The 2009 Session will provide many challenges for lawmakers, least of which will be tackling continued budget shortfalls and growing housing foreclosures. The General Assembly anticipates legislation dealing with the Chesapeake Bay, high energy prices, increased energy demand with decreased capacity, renewable energy opportunities, water resources for effective growth, and more.

For a complete listing of all bills introduced before the Maryland General Assembly, visit their website mlis.state.md.us.

The Week at a Glance*

House Delegations meetings begin Friday, 1/23/09. Bi County Committees meet the following week.

WHO	WHERE	WHEN
Montgomery County Bi-County Committee	Room 218 Lowe HOB	Fridays at 10:00 am
Montgomery County House Delegation	Room 170 Lowe HOB	Mondays at 7:00 pm
Prince George's County Bi-County Committee	Room 150 Lowe HOB	Wednesdays at 8:30 am
Prince George's County House Delegation	Room 150 Lowe HOB	Fridays at 9:00 am
Montgomery County Senate Delegation	TBD	TBD
Prince George's County Senate Delegation	TBD	TBD

* Dates, times and location subject to change anytime, at the discretion of the Chairs. Check delegation websites for schedules. Web addresses below.

County Information

Montgomery County Delegation

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/>

House Delegation

Delegate Brian Feldman, Chair
Delegate Susan Lee, Vice Chair
Phone: 301-858-3010

Senate Delegation

Senator Rich Madaleno, Chair
Senator Jamie Raskin, Vice Chair
Phone: 301-858-3137

Prince George's County Delegation

<http://www.princegeorghousedelegation.com>

House Delegation

Melony G. Griffith, Chair
Michael Vaughn, Vice Chair
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., 2nd Vice Chair
Phone: 301-858-3074

Senate Delegation

Senator C. Anthony Muse, Chair
Phone: 301-858-3410

Montgomery County Bi-County Agency Committee Members

Del. Kathleen Dumais, Chair	Del. Tom Hucker
Del. Luiz Simmons, Vice Chair	Del. Ben Kramer
Del. Al Carr	Del. Krill Reznik
Del. Bill Frick	Del. Herman Taylor

Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Members

Del. Aisha Braveboy, Chair	Del. Tawanna Gaines
Del. James Hubbard, Vice Chair	Del. Marvin Holmes
Del. Ben Barnes	Del. Jay Walker

Annapolis Transportation & Parking



For many visitors the easiest option is to park at the Naval Academy Stadium and take the Annapolis Transit Trolley Shuttle. There are several public garages including Whitmore, Gotts, and the Gorman Street garages. They fill up fast. There is also limited metered parking, but they ticket often. Your best bet is to arrive early, and car-pool if possible.

About IRO

The IRO oversees the Commission's legislative agenda and represents WSSC before elected bodies. The office is responsible for researching, developing, analyzing, and lobbying for or against legislation impacting the Commission. We also serve as a liaison between the Commission and elected officials.

How To Reach US

Annapolis Office (during session)

68 State Circle, Suite 3
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
phone: 301.261.2789 fax: 410.268.9593

Laurel Office (year round)

14501 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 1226A
Laurel, Maryland 20707
phone: 301.206.8228 fax: 301.206.8229

On The Web

The WSSC IRO has its own webpage to keep you up to date and informed with our legislative activities. In addition to introductory information about the Office and Maryland General Assembly, you will find links to information about bills and our Annapolis Reports archive. www.wsscwater.com/iro/irowebiste

Who We Are

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