

Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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By: **Prince George’s County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Funding Accountability and**
3 **Transparency Act**

4 **PG/MC 111–18**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to develop
6 and operate a certain website that includes certain information about certain payees
7 and certain payments; specifying certain requirements for the website; defining
8 certain terms; and generally relating to the development and operation of a
9 searchable website by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Public Utilities
12 Section 16–101(a) and (b)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Public Utilities
17 Section 17–401
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Public Utilities**

4 16–101.

5 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) “Commission” means the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

7 17–401.

8 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
9 **INDICATED.**

10 **(2) (I) “PAYEE” MEANS A PERSON THAT RECEIVES FROM THE**
11 **COMMISSION AN AGGREGATE PAYMENT OF \$25,000 IN A SINGLE FISCAL YEAR.**

12 **(II) “PAYEE” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

13 **1. A COMMISSION EMPLOYEE WITH RESPECT TO THE**
14 **EMPLOYEE’S COMPENSATION; OR**

15 **2. A COMMISSION RETIREE WITH RESPECT TO THE**
16 **RETIREE’S RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE.**

17 **(3) “SEARCHABLE WEBSITE” MEANS A WEBSITE CREATED IN**
18 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION THAT DISPLAYS AND SEARCHES PAYMENT DATA**
19 **OF THE COMMISSION.**

20 **[(a)] (B) The Commission shall:**

21 (1) publish annually in at least one newspaper in Montgomery County and
22 one newspaper in Prince George’s County a copy of the current financial statement of the
23 Commission;

1 (2) employ a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State to
2 audit the books and accounts of the Commission;

3 (3) keep available for public inspection during business hours at its
4 principal office the annual audit and current financial statement; and

5 (4) file annually with the county executives and county councils of
6 Montgomery County and Prince George’s County, and the Montgomery County and Prince
7 George’s County Senate and House delegations to the Maryland General Assembly a
8 certified copy of the annual audit and current financial statement.

9 **(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP
10 AND OPERATE A SINGLE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT NO
11 COST THROUGH THE INTERNET.**

12 **(D) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL CONTAIN COMMISSION PAYMENT
13 DATA INCLUDING:**

14 **(1) THE NAME OF EACH PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT;**

15 **(2) THE LOCATION OF THE PAYEE BY POSTAL ZIP CODE; AND**

16 **(3) THE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENT.**

17 **(E) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL ALLOW THE USER TO:**

18 **(1) SEARCH DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
19 THEREAFTER; AND**

20 **(2) SEARCH BY THE FOLLOWING DATA FIELDS:**

21 **(I) A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT; AND**

22 **(II) THE ZIP CODE OF A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT.**

23 **(F) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE DISCLOSURE
24 OF INFORMATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNDER FEDERAL,
25 STATE, OR LOCAL LAW.**

1 **[(b)] (G)** (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the county council or
2 county executive of Montgomery County or Prince George’s County may, in person or by a
3 duly authorized agent, audit and examine the books and records of the Commission.

4 (2) The Commission may not be required to pay the cost of the audit or
5 examination under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2018.