

House Joint Resolution requesting the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to undertake surveys in the portion of the Washington Suburban Sanitary District in Prince George's County of the need for and the cost of enclosing or covering open storm water or surface drainage systems, and to submit a report of the result of said surveys to the Prince George's County Delegation to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has been authorized to construct, maintain and operate storm water or surface drainage systems in those areas in Prince George's County within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, and other systems and parts thereof have been constructed and are operated and maintained under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners for Prince George's County, by the State Roads Commission, and by non-public parties; and

WHEREAS, certain of the systems and parts thereof have by reason of economic necessity and topographic factors utilized open channels or drains, both through the utilization of existing streams and through the construction of such channels; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented growth and population of the area within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District within Prince George's County has resulted in a substantial increase in the density of the population and intensity of land use, and it appears desirable to consider the question of whether the open channels or drains should be closed or covered over so as to minimize or prevent erosion, and health problems, and generally improve the utilization of land surface areas; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that any proposed solution to the problem must be based upon an understanding of the engineering and economic factors inherent therein, and that no program for enclosing or covering the open drains and channels can be implemented unless there is first developed the background information on a factual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission is, by reason of experience and the authority given to it under existing law, in a position to investigate and report upon the question of enclosing or covering over the open portions of the storm drainage systems in the herein mentioned area; and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that the ~~survey~~ SURVEYS and studies must be accompanied by research work performed by engineering, fiscal and legal personnel, and to that end provision should be made by the Commission for the employment of consultants and research personnel if the necessity therefor is determined, and it appears that the most feasible method of making provision for the expenses to be incurred in performing the surveys and preparing the reports is by the utilization of funds from the sale of bonds authorized to be issued by the Commission for storm water or surface drainage system needs in the Prince George's County portion of the Washington Suburban