



Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago

2024 – State of Illinois Legislative Program



Introduction

Special district units of local government differ from general purpose governments such as the City of Chicago and Cook County in that they are legislatively authorized to provide a single service or group of services.

As a non-home rule unit of local government, the District only has limited powers. Specifically, a non-home rule unit like the District may only exercise those powers expressly granted to it by statute or those powers necessarily implied by its express statutory authority.

In the District's case these services involve wastewater, stormwater, resource recovery and related services.

Legislation must therefore be specifically tied to and relate to these activities.



Recent Legislative History

Over the past 10 years, the District has passed approximately 20 bills into law.

Additionally, the District regularly engages with ILGA members to provide feedback and concern on a broad range of legislative topics, including:

- Single member district legislation
- Expanded liability for flooding &/or basement backups.
- Expansive environmental bills that would be detrimental to District operations.

The second year of the 103rd ILGA will begin in January 2024. Senate and House Rules state that during even-numbered years of the ILGA, only appropriation bills implementing the budget and other legislative measures deemed to be of an emergency nature or to be of substantial importance to the operation of government should be advanced to substantive committees.

To date, there have been over 2,600 bills filed in the Senate and 4,200 bills filed in the House.

In order to focus on legislative success, it is recommended that a maximum of two to three initiatives be brought to the ILGA in any given year. These initiatives should represent the priorities of the District for that legislative year.

Introducing more than 2-3 bills in any year, can result in leadership and staff treating the requests with less attention and/or present challenges lining up bill sponsors.



Proposals Recommended For Consideration for Advancement

- Raise procurement thresholds for contracts, purchase orders and operating emergencies to \$100,000.
- Amend MWRD Act to add the word "aides" to describe the employees that work for commissioners.
- Creation of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Department
- Work with Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA) to amend Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Right of Way (ROW) requirements to reimburse the District to move infrastructure when required



Proposals Recommended For Consideration for Advancement

- Creation of position of Deputy Executive Director
 - The duties and functions of this position can be achieved by a budgeted position, thereby eliminating the need to seek a legislative change to the statute.
- Identify opportunities to support legislation pertaining to the following concepts: DBE utilization; Municipal and Wastewater Funding; Disaster/Emergency Relief Legislation and PFAS