

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 26-0055R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Gray

Cosponsored by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Middleton, Bullock,  
Blanchard, Ramos, Schleifer, Torrence, and Glover

Introduced and read first time: June 15, 2026

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Public Works, Baltimore  
City Information Technology, Baltimore City Fire Department

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Sewage Backup Expedited Reimbursement and**  
3 **Direct Assistance Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works, the Law Department, Baltimore  
5 City Information Technology, and the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management to appear  
6 before the City Council to discuss the operations of the Building Backup Expedited  
7 Reimbursement Program and the Sewage Onsite Support Program.

8 **Recitals**

9 Pursuant to the 2017 Modified Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection  
10 Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Department of  
11 Public Works (DPW) must establish a Building Backup Expedited Reimbursement Program  
12 (BBERP) to reimburse City residents for the costs of cleaning up and disinfecting after certain  
13 sewage backup events.

14 In 2023, EPA and MDE approved the City’s proposal to substitute the BBERP with the  
15 Sewage Onsite Support (SOS) Program to provide direct assistance to residents with wet-weather  
16 capacity-related backups, but denied the City’s plan to restrict the long-term program to only  
17 these types of backups.

18 The City Council would like to request more information on the ongoing operation of the  
19 BBERP and the SOS Program (the Programs), specifically the following:

- 20 (a) an analysis of the feasibility of modifying the Programs to provide assistance for a  
21 sewage backup in any weather that originated at least in part in the sewer mainline;
- 22 (b) any obstacles that the Department of Public Works finds would impede such a  
23 modification, and any inquiry or effort the Department has made to overcome those  
24 obstacles;
- 25 (c) a cost projection for such a modification to the Programs;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (d) the total amount of money that the City has expended in costs related to sewage  
2 backups, including settlement amounts, damages awarded, and the amount of  
3 reimbursement; and

4 (e) for each fiscal year that the Programs have been in operation:

5 (1) the number of 311 requests for assistance with a sewage backup, including the  
6 number of 311 requests for assistance with a backup on City infrastructure;

7 (2) the budget allocation for each Program;

8 (3) the actual expenditures for each Program;

9 (4) the total number of wet-weather sewage backup events that qualified for  
10 reimbursement or assistance under the Programs, regardless of whether  
11 reimbursement or assistance was requested or provided;

12 (5) the total number of wet-weather sewage backup events that did not qualify for  
13 reimbursement or assistance under the Programs, regardless of whether  
14 reimbursement or assistance was requested or provided;

15 (6) the number of dry-weather sewage backup events;

16 (7) the number of requests for reimbursement or assistance that were denied,  
17 including for each Program:

18 (i) the average dollar amount of reimbursement or assistance sought in  
19 denied requests;

20 (ii) the total annual dollar amount of denied requests; and

21 (iii) the 3 most common reasons a request for reimbursement or  
22 assistance was denied;

23 (8) the number of requests for reimbursement or assistance that were approved,  
24 including for each Program:

25 (i) the average dollar amount of reimbursement or assistance sought in  
26 approved requests; and

27 (ii) the total annual dollar amount of approved requests;

28 (9) the Council districts with:

29 (i) the highest frequency of sewage backup events; and

30 (ii) the most requests for reimbursement or assistance under the Programs;

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1 (10) the months with:

2 (i) the highest frequency of sewage backup events; and

3 (ii) the most requests for reimbursement or assistance under the Programs;  
4 and

5 (11) the number of households in the City that were given information regarding  
6 the services provided by the Programs.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
8 Council requires the Department of Public Works, the Law Department, Baltimore City  
9 Information Technology, and the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, to appear before  
10 the City Council to discuss the operations of the Building Backup Expedited Reimbursement  
11 Program and the Sewage Onsite Support Program.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
13 Department of Public Works, the City Solicitor, the Director of Baltimore City Information  
14 Technology, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Mayor's  
15 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.