

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0205R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Middleton, Bullock, Henry, Burnett, Cohen,
Pinkett, Dorsey, Clarke, McCray, Sneed, Stokes

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2020

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Implementing the Water Accountability and Equity Act**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Finance and the Department
4 of Public Works to provide the City Council with an update on the Administration’s progress
5 implementing the Water Accountability and Equity Act.

6 **Recitals**

7 On November 18, 2019, the Baltimore City Council unanimously passed the Water
8 Accountability and Equity Act, which was signed into law by the Mayor. The Act was passed to
9 increase the availability of basic water and wastewater service to low-income consumers and to
10 ensure a fair process for all consumers before the City shuts off water service, imposes liens, or
11 takes similar action. The Act creates a Water-for-All Discount Program, an Office of Water-
12 Customer Advocacy and Appeals, and a Committee for Office Oversight. The Act applies to
13 both renters and property owners and provides income-based discounts for residents with income
14 at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

15 The Act was passed unanimously because the water billing system in the City was widely
16 acknowledged to be broken. Problems with over-billing customers for water have been reported
17 for years, while some residents and businesses failed to receive water bills for over a decade. It
18 is of the utmost importance that the administration implement the Water Accountability and
19 Equity Act efficiently and effectively, and the City Council is interested in learning about the
20 progress of the implementation.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
22 Council invites representatives from the Department of Finance and the Department of Public
23 Works to provide the City Council with an update on the administration’s progress implementing
24 the Water Accountability and Equity Act.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
26 Director of the Department of Finance, the Acting Director of the Department of Public Works,
27 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.