

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0065
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Stokes, Branch, Curran, Mosby, Spector,
Middleton, Reisinger, Welch, President Young, Councilmember Holton

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2012

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Public Works,
Department of Finance, Board of Estimates

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Tax Lien Certificates – Verifications Required Before Issuance For Water Bills**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that, before the Chief Clerk issues a tax lien certificate including
4 water or sewer charges, the Chief Clerk must obtain a certification that the charges are based
5 on certain verified information; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and
6 generally relating to tax lien certificates.

7 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

8 Article 28 - Taxes

9 Section(s) 2-4

10 Baltimore City Code

11 (Edition 2000)

12 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
13 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

14 **Baltimore City Code**

15 **Article 28. Taxes**

16 **Subtitle 2. Lien Certificates**

17 **§ 2-4. Bureau access to supporting information.**

18 (a) *Access to agency records.*

19 For the purpose of obtaining the information necessary to [give said] ISSUE [certificate]
20 LIEN CERTIFICATES, the [said] Chief Clerk[,] or his OR HER assistant[,] shall[, at all times,]
21 have access AT ALL TIMES to the books and records of every department, subdepartment,
22 and municipal officer [of the City, having] THAT HAS [any] charges of any kind [against
23 any person, which] THAT constitute a CHARGE OR lien against any real estate.

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

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1 (b) *Agencies to provide information.*

2 (1) [And when] WHEN so directed by the Board of Estimates, any department,
3 subdepartment, or municipal officer shall furnish to [said] THE Chief Clerk or his OR
4 HER assistant, upon application[,]:

5 (I) a written statement [showing] THAT SHOWS every item of any claim [against
6 any person, constituting] THAT CONSTITUTES a charge or lien against any real
7 estate[,]; AND

8 (II) FOR ANY CLAIM INCLUDING WATER OR SEWER CHARGES, THE CERTIFICATIONS
9 REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

10 (2) THIS INFORMATION SHALL BE FURNISHED under [such] A system [as may be] arranged
11 between [such] THE CHIEF CLERK AND THE department, SUBDEPARTMENT, or officer
12 [and said Chief Clerk], with the approval of the Board of Estimates.

13 (3) BEFORE THE CHIEF CLERK MAY ISSUE ANY LIEN CERTIFICATE THAT INCLUDES WATER
14 OR SEWER CHARGES, THE CHIEF CLERK MUST OBTAIN A CERTIFICATION FROM THE
15 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS THAT THE UNPAID CHARGES ARE BASED ON:

16 (I) ACTUAL, RATHER THAN ESTIMATED, METER READINGS AT THE PROPERTY;

17 (II) METER READINGS FROM A METER THAT HAS BEEN VERIFIED TO BE
18 FUNCTIONING PROPERLY; AND

19 (III) METER READINGS THAT HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AS CORRECTLY TRANSCRIBED.

20 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
21 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
22 Ordinance.

23 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
24 after the date it is enacted.