

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0180R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Mitchell, President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Kraft,
Curran, Clarke, Welch, Harris, Conaway, Holton, Reisinger, Branch

Introduced and read first time: May 8, 2006

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Housing and Community Development,
Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Energy Assistance Program – Let’s Add to the Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the City of Baltimore contribute funds to the Energy
4 Assistance Program, which helps low-income Maryland citizens pay their heating bills,
5 minimize heating crises, and helps make energy costs more affordable for those who can
6 least afford it.

7 **Recitals**

8 The Maryland Energy Assistance Program is a program that is designed to provide assistance
9 to low-income Maryland residents who may have trouble finding the funds to pay their electric
10 and utility bills. Many residents of our City already have trouble finding money to pay the high
11 costs of utilities, and with rate increases going into effect shortly, many more will surely be left
12 without the means to pay for utilities. We can help.

13 Currently this program is federally funded by a grant through the Maryland State Department
14 of Human Resources. Since many City residents already benefit from this program, we should
15 provide some additional funding so that many more Baltimore City residents will be able to use
16 the services that the program provides in the coming months. Utility increases are hard on
17 everyone, but those who are able to pay their bills and are already beginning to struggle due to
18 increases, may be able to use the program as well when rate increases go into effect. With the
19 federal government funds, the Energy Assistance Program can do much good, but if we, as a
20 City help out, many more of our citizens will feel less of a burden in the near future due to the
21 high increases in energy costs.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
23 Body requests that the City of Baltimore contribute funds to the Energy Assistance Program,
24 which helps low-income Maryland citizens pay their heating bills, minimize heating crises, and
25 helps make energy costs more affordable for those who can least afford it.

26 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor and the
27 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Council.

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