

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0007R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Cohen

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Schleifer, Middleton, Torrence, Gray,
Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover, and Ramos

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2025

Assigned to: Committee on Legislative Investigations

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: None

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – BGE Testimony on High Utility Bills,**
3 **Rate Increases, and Winter Shutoffs**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and
5 the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel to testify before the City Council on topics related
6 to utility billing and shutoff practices in Baltimore City.

7 **Recitals**

8 On December 14, 2023, the Maryland Public Service Commission (“PSC”) authorized a
9 nearly \$408 million rate increase for the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company’s (“BGE”)
10 multi-year rate plan (“MYP”).

11 In recent months, the City Council has heard concerns and received complaints about high
12 utility bills and shutoff notices during some of the coldest weeks of the winter. The City Council
13 seeks to understand the causes and consequences of recent steep rate increases, including the
14 extent to which the MYP contributed to these issues, and will take action on solutions.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
16 Baltimore City Council invites representatives from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
17 and the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel to testify before the City Council on topics
18 including but not limited to:

- 19 (1) Why, according to a September 2024 policy brief from the American Council for an
20 Energy-Efficient Economy, low-income households in Baltimore City face the highest
21 energy cost burden of the 25 cities included in the American Housing Survey;
- 22 (2) BGE’s policies and practices for investigating and resolving billing irregularities;
- 23 (3) BGE’s policies and practices for utility shutoffs; and
- 24 (4) BGE’s communications to the public relating to rate increases.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President and
2 Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, the President and Chief
3 Executive Officer of the Exelon Corporation, the People’s Counsel of the State of Maryland, the
4 Chair and Commissioners of the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Baltimore City
5 delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City
6 Council.