

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0068
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Branch, Henry, Holton, Welch, Clarke, D'Adamo,
Middleton, Reisinger, Cole, Conaway, Kraft, Spector, President Rawlings-Blake

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2008

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Water and Sewer Charges – Payment Schedules**

3 FOR the purpose of tolling the accrual of certain penalties while payments are being made timely
4 under an agreed-to payment schedule; correcting, clarifying, and conforming certain
5 language; and generally relating to the assessment and collection of charges for water and
6 sewer services.

7 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

8 Article 24 - Water
9 Section(s) 4-2 through 4-4
10 Baltimore City Code
11 (Edition 2000)

12 BY adding

13 Article 24 - Water
14 Section(s) 4-5
15 Baltimore City Code
16 (Edition 2000)

17 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

18 Article 25 - Sewers
19 Section(s) 13-9(a)
20 Baltimore City Code
21 (Edition 2000)

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

24 **Baltimore City Code**

25 **Article 24. Water**

26 **Subtitle 4. Collection of Charges**

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

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§ 4-2. Metered WATER CHARGES and fire supply service inspection charges.

(a) *When due.*

Metered water charges and fire supply service inspection charges [shall be] ARE due and payable [upon rendering of] WHEN THE bills [therefor] FOR THEM HAVE BEEN RENDERED.

(b) *When delinquent.*

Any metered water charges and fire supply service inspection charges unpaid 30 days after the mailing date of the bill [shall be] ARE considered delinquent, and all water service [shall be] ARE subject to turn-off for nonpayment of [such] THOSE charges at any time [thereafter].

(c) *Penalties.*

(1) A penalty at the rate of 5% of the water charge and fire supply service inspection charge shall be added to every metered water charge and fire supply service inspection charge at the time they become delinquent.

(2) An additional penalty of 5% shall be imposed on all charges, including accrued penalties, which remain unpaid and are forwarded as arrearages on subsequent bills.

§ 4-3. Cut-off for nonpayment.

The non-payment of any delinquent water charge against a property [shall be] IS sufficient reason for terminating all water service and fire supply service to the property, even though other water charges against the property are not in arrears.

§ 4-4. Full payment required to restore service.

The total of all delinquent water charges, including but not limited to[,]the penalty or interest and turn-off charges, [shall] MUST be paid before service will be restored.

§ 4-5. PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

IF A PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING A WATER BILL ENTERS INTO A PAYMENT AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, THEN WHILE THE PERSON IS MAKING TIMELY PAYMENTS IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREED-TO SCHEDULE:

(1) THE QUARTERLY PENALTY IMPOSED UNDER § 4-2(C) {"METERED WATER CHARGES: PENALTIES"} OF THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT ACCRUE; AND

(2) SERVICE THAT HAS BEEN TURNED-OFF MAY BE RESTORED.

Article 25. Sewers

Subtitle 13. Sewer Service Charges

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1 **§ 13-9. Collections.**

2 (a) *Billings.*

3 (1) All charges imposed under this subtitle shall be due and payable at the same time that
4 charges made by the City for supplying water or water service are due and payable.

5 (2) [Said] THESE charges:

6 (i) shall be billed by the same agency of the City [which] THAT renders [or
7 dispatches] bills for water service;

8 (ii) may be included in the same bills rendered for water charges or stated in
9 separate bills; and

10 (iii) shall be collected by the Director of Finance, at the same time or times and in
11 the same manner and subject to the same interest rates and penalties provided
12 for nonpayment [when due and owing as] OF charges [made by the City] for
13 supplying water.

14 (3) [The provisions of this] THIS section [shall apply] APPLIES to all properties and the
15 owners [thereof] OF PROPERTIES [which] THAT are subject to the payment of the
16 charges imposed under this subtitle, without regard to the source [or sources] of THE
17 water used on [said] THOSE properties.

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

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