

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0017R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard,
Jones, Middleton, and President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: April 7, 2025

Assigned to: Committee on Legislative Investigations

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Department of Finance,
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Water-for-All – Program Update**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance, the
4 Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, and the Baltimore City Community Action
5 Partnership to provide an update to the City Council on the implementation of the
6 Water-for-All program and the Water Accountability and Equity Act.

7 **Recitals**

8 Knowing that access to clean water is a human right, the City Council passed Council Bill
9 18-0307, the Water Accountability and Equity Act, which was enacted in January of 2020 and
10 created the Water-for-All program, replacing the previous Baltimore H2O program. The
11 enabling legislation was modified on December 7, 2020 with the enactment of Council Bill
12 20-0626.

13 The Water-for-All program provides water discounts to those who need it most.
14 Water-for-All also includes assistance to renters, who have traditionally not been eligible for
15 water discounts. After long delays, the Water-for-All program was implemented in 2023 and
16 continues today.

17 As the Program's 2 year anniversary approaches, the City Council would like the invited City
18 agencies and community partners to evaluate how the program is working and provide the
19 following information:

- 20 (1) the number of residents enrolled in the program;
- 21 (2) the difference between the number of residents enrolled in Water-for-All and
22 Baltimore H2O;
- 23 (3) the number of homeowners and the number of renters enrolled in the program;
- 24 (4) a breakdown of the demographics and income levels of the program participants;

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

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1 (5) an explanation for why the discounts are provided only once a year, rather than
2 distributed throughout the year;

3 (6) recommendations for how the program can be improved;

4 (7) current efforts underway to encourage more eligible residents to enroll;

5 (8) a comparison of Water-for-All's discounts with Baltimore H2O's discounts;

6 (9) an analysis of the experiences of residents enrolled in the program who pay their bills
7 versus those who cannot; and

8 (10) any additional questions the Council may ask before and during the hearing.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
10 Council invites the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance, the Mayor's Office
11 of Children and Family Success, and the Baltimore City Community Action Partnership to
12 provide an update to the City Council on the implementation of the Water-for-All program and
13 the Water Accountability and Equity Act.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
15 Department of Public Works, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Director of the
16 Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, the Board of Directors of the Baltimore City
17 Community Action Partnership, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.