

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0050
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Gray

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

Introduced and read first time: April 7, 2025

Assigned to: Housing and Economic Development Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

Water Bill – Tenant Right to Review

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a specified person with
4 a copy of a certain water or wastewater bill upon request and submission of specified
5 documentation.

6 BY repealing and re-ordinating, with amendments

7 Article 24 - Water
8 Section 2-1
9 Baltimore City Code
10 (Edition 2000)

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

Baltimore City Code

Article 24. Water

Subtitle 2. Bills

§ 2-1. Bills.

17 (a) *Finance to collect.*

18 The bills for water used or work done by the Department of Public Works shall be
19 collected by the Department of Finance.

20 (b) *When due.*

21 Unless abated under this subtitle, all bills therefor shall be paid within 20 days after they
22 have been issued.

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

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(c) *Cut-off on default.*

Subject to the requirements of this article, on default in payment for bills issued under this section, the Department of Public Works may cut off the supply.

(d) *Copy of bill to tenant-water-utility customer.*

(1) Any landlord that requires a residential tenant to pay for the costs of water or wastewater services shall:

(I) [(1)] include that requirement in a written lease, as provided in City Code Article 13, § 7-3(a-1); and

(II) [(2)] either:

(A) [(i)] timely provide the tenant with a copy of the water or wastewater bill; or

(B) [(ii)] timely notify the Department that a copy of the bill should be sent to the tenant.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL TO A TENANT-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:

(I) REQUESTS A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL ISSUED DURING A TIME PERIOD THE TENANT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE BILL; AND

(II) PROVIDES THE DEPARTMENT WITH A COPY OF A WRITTEN LEASE FOR THE PROPERTY, AS PROVIDED IN CITY CODE ARTICLE 13, § 7-3(A-1), THAT INCLUDES A REQUIREMENT THAT THE TENANT PAY FOR THE COSTS OF WATER OR WASTEWATER SERVICES.

(e) *Tenant-water-utility customer requests.*

The property owner's or managing operator's refusal or failure to participate in a tenant-water-utility-customer's request to the Department for a discount, bill adjustment, payment plan, or other agency action may not be grounds for the Department to deny the request.

(F) RESIDENTIAL-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER REQUESTS:

THE DEPARTMENT MUST TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL TO A RESIDENTIAL-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:

(1) REQUESTS A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL ISSUED DURING A TIME PERIOD THE CUSTOMER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE BILL; AND

(2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE CUSTOMER OWNS AND OCCUPIES THE PROPERTY AS THE CUSTOMER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.

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1 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
2 after the date it is enacted.