

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

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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

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

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **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-ordaining, 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:

13 **Baltimore City Code**

14 **Article 24. Water**

15 **Subtitle 2. Bills**

16 **§ 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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1 (c) *Cut-off on default.*

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

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

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

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

9 (II) [(2)] either:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (F) *RESIDENTIAL-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER REQUESTS.*

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

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

32 (2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE CUSTOMER OWNS AND OCCUPIES THE  
33 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 30<sup>th</sup> day  
2       after the date it is enacted.