

*H. Raymond*

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Henry Raymond, Director of Finance	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 20-0626 – Water Accountability and Equity Act - Modification		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

November 9, 2020

**Position: Defer to Department of Public Works**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 20-0626, Water Accountability and Equity Act - Modification, the purpose of which is to clarify aspects of the Water Accountability and Equity Act, require public comment on rules and regulations, and modify the effective date and establish special effective dates for certain aspects of the law.

**Background**

The Water Accountability and Equity Act, City Council Bill 18-0307, was introduced in December 2018 and signed into law January 2020, Ordinance 20-336. It creates a Water-for-All Discount Program, and Office of Water-Customer Advocacy and Appeals, and a Committee for Office Oversight within the Department of Public Works (DPW)

The proposed legislation includes multiple modifications to the Water Accountability and Equity Act, including data collection metrics, guidelines for customers to dispute determinations, modifies the enactment date to July 1, 2021, mandates public comment on rules and regulations, and suspends water service cut-offs until the bill is fully effective. These modifications impact the operations of DPW and the new offices established under the Water Accountability and Equity Act.

**Fiscal Impact Analysis**

The Department of Finance does not anticipate this legislation will have a fiscal impact for the City.

**Conclusion**

This legislation modifies several aspects of the Water Accountability and Equity Act that will impact DPW operations and will likely not have a fiscal impact for the City.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance defers to DPW on City Council Bill 20-0626.**

cc: Matthew Stegman  
Nina Themelis