


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Todd Carter Chief Information Officer <i>Todd A. Carter</i>	CITY OF	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT) 401 E Fayette Street, 3 rd floor	BALTIMORE	
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0058 – Real Property Tax – Installment Plans	MEMO	

TO: The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400 City Hall
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

June 1, 2021

The Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0058 – Real Property Tax – Installment Plans. The purpose of this bill is to authorize that the real property taxes to be owed on certain properties may be paid through a monthly installment plan; establish the maximum term for an installment payment plan in accordance with State law; require the Director of Finance to adopt regulations to implement this subtitle; define certain terms; provide for a special effective date; and generally relating to installment payments of real property taxes in Baltimore City.

Upon reviewing 21-0058, BCIT determined that the City could utilize an existing mainframe system, the Tax Savings Plan, to provide these services to residents, but it would be limited in the functionality offered. The Tax Savings Plan gives citizens the ability to make periodic payments towards their Real Property Tax at any frequency. There is currently not a way for residents to make these payments online. Payments are made via a “counterbill,” meaning the customer mails a check to the City for deposit. While this option is available to residents, this program is rarely used because the service is not offered online and its existence has not been broadly publicized. Although this system could be used, it is self-actualized, meaning that it does not provide for scheduling of monthly payments, recurring apportioned bills, or coupon books.

BCIT and the Department of Finance are in the process of securing and implementing a new Payment Solution System that will give residents the ability to make Citywide payments, view payment history, and see outstanding balances in one dashboard. The functionality of the Payment Solution System will include the ability to make Tax Saving Payments. The Tax Savings Plan within the Payment Solution System could offer a potential solution. This project is in the scoping phase now and a timeline will be forthcoming shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact Leyla Layman, Chief of Staff, at (443) 202-4511.

Cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*