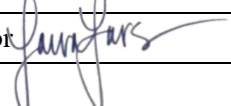




CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
DATE	June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
SUBJECT	25-0050 Water Bill – Tenant Right to Review

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

**Position: Does Not Oppose**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0050, Water Bill – Tenant Right to Review, the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works (DPW) to provide a specified person with a copy of a certain water or wastewater bill upon request and submission of specified documentation.

**Background**

In their report for 25-0050, the Baltimore City Law Department states that under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA), water billing records are considered personal financial information and can only be released to property owners or their designees. The Water Accountability and Equity Act (WAEA) which was passed in 2020 requires landlords to designate tenants to receive such records. This means that tenants have the ability to access water billing records for the property they reside in.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Department of Finance does not expect this legislation to have a financial impact. The Department of Public Works does not anticipate requiring additional staffing or resources to comply with this legislation.

**Conclusion**

This legislation adds to existing transparency requirements by ensuring that tenants, through landlord designation as mandated by the WAEA, have access to water billing records for their residence. It aligns with the MPIA while promoting tenant rights and accountability in utility usage. There is no anticipated fiscal impact or need for additional resources.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 25-0050.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis