



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

The Honorable Danielle McCray

CHAIR

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

9:00 AM

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26-0170

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –
Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758*

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**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray
CHAIR****Bill Hearing**

26-0170

Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758

Purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,177,758 to the Department of Public Works – Service 673 (Wastewater Management), to provide funding for enhanced nutrient removal operations and maintenance activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant; and providing for a special effective date.

REPORTING AGENCIES

Department of Public Works	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form & Legal Sufficiency

BACKGROUND

This is a performance-based award from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for wastewater treatment plants that remove nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus at levels significantly better than what is required under their permits. These funds will help offset the increased operational costs associated with achieving these very stringent treatment goals, including additional chemical usage, higher utility costs, and equipment maintenance.

FISCAL NOTE

An additional \$2,177,758 has been appropriated to the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2026. This supplemental funding, provided by a State of Maryland grant, will support Wastewater Management (Service 673) operations.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0170
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: The Administration (Department of Finance)
Introduced and read first time: April 6, 2026
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –**
3 **Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the
5 amount of \$2,177,758 to the Department of Public Works – Service 673 (Wastewater
6 Management), to provide funding for enhanced nutrient removal operations and maintenance
7 activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant; and providing for a special effective
8 date.

9 BY authority of
10 Article VI - Board of Estimates
11 Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)
12 Baltimore City Charter
13 (1996 Edition)

14 **Recitals**

15 The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the Maryland
16 Department of the Environment in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in
17 determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

18 That grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of
19 Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.

20 On April 1, 2026, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City
21 Council.

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

Council Bill 26-0170

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
2 \$2,177,758 shall be made available to the Department of Public Works – Service 673
3 (Wastewater Management) as a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation for Fiscal
4 Year 2026, to provide funding for enhanced nutrient removal operations and maintenance
5 activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The source of revenue for this
6 appropriation is the grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment in excess of the
7 amount from this source that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy
8 required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

9 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
10 enacted.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0170

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –
Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758*

Agency Reports



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Matthew W. Garbark, Director, Department of Public Works
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	May 12, 2026
SUBJECT	26-0170 Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,177,758 to the Department of Public Works – Service 673 (Wastewater Management), to provide funding for enhanced nutrient removal operations and maintenance activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant; and providing for a special effective date.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

This legislation authorizes a supplemental appropriation funded entirely through a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment. These funds were not included in the FY26 budget because DPW was not aware of the award at the time the budget was developed. So, to be clear, this is not related to a budget shortfall or overspending by the Department. This is new external funding, and the legislation simply gives DPW the authority to receive and spend those funds.

The funding itself is essentially a performance-based award from the State. MDE provides these grants to wastewater treatment plants that remove nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus at levels significantly better than what is required under their permits.

In 2024, the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant achieved the lowest nutrient levels in the plant's history, far exceeding both permit requirements and advanced performance benchmarks. Because of that exceptional performance, the State awarded DPW approximately \$2.17 million to help offset the costs associated with maintaining that level of treatment.

In short, this supplemental reflects strong operational performance and environmental success. It is not a budget issue.

These funds help offset the increased operational costs associated with achieving these very stringent treatment goals, including additional chemical usage, higher utility costs, and equipment maintenance. For example, it takes more methanol, ferric chloride, electricity, and ongoing maintenance to consistently meet these tighter nutrient removal standards.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report.

City Hall – Room 250, 100 Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Bob Cenname, Deputy Finance Director <i>Bob Cenname</i>
DATE	April 13 th , 2026
SUBJECT	26-0170 Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758

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

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0170, Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department of Public Works – \$2,177,758, the purpose of which is to increase the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation of State Grant Funds by \$2,177,758 to Department of Public Works, Service SRV0673: Wastewater Management.

Background

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In Fiscal 2026, the Department of Public Works (DPW) did not have an appropriation for unallocated State grant funds. However, DPW received this grant for \$2,177,758 in State funds. This bill will make \$2,177,758 available to DPW-Service 673 (Wastewater Management) for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) operations and maintenance and repair activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency spending based on the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplemental appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

Fiscal Impact

DPW requires supplemental appropriation due to an unanticipated grant. This supplemental appropriation of \$2,177,758 is necessary to accommodate these unbudgeted grant funds from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Conclusion

This supplemental appropriation is required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary due to new grant funding from the Maryland Department of

the Environment to support Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) operations and maintenance and repair activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0170.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

May 7, 2026

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 26-0170 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Department
of Public Works – \$2,177,758

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 26-0170 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,177,758 to the Department of Public Works – Service 673 (Wastewater Management), to provide funding for enhanced nutrient removal operations and maintenance activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment. The award of funds is a one-year grant from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Department of the Environment that supports Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) operations and maintenance activities at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Council Bill 26-0170 identifies the revenue appropriated as “a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.” The grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated, and the bill has been recommended by the Board of Estimates to the City Council. The Council bill cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure.

A supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). Since the bill meets these requirements, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Council President Cohen
Ethan Hasiuk
Shamoyia Gardiner
Nina Themelis
Ty'lor Schnella
Aaron Degraffenreidt
Hilary Ruley
Jeff Hochstetler
Ashlea Brown
Desiree Luckey
Ahleah Clark