

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE 25-047
Council Bill 25-0050

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
Committee Report: Favorable, with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: September 15, 2025

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

Water Bill – Tenant Right to Review

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a specified person with a copy of a certain water or wastewater bill upon request and submission of specified documentation.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments
Article 24 - Water
Section 2-1
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 24. Water

Subtitle 2. Bills

§ 2-1. Bills.

(a) *Finance to collect.*

The bills for water used or work done by the Department of Public Works shall be collected by the Department of Finance.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 (b) *When due.*

2 Unless abated under this subtitle, all bills therefor shall be paid within 20 days after they
3 have been issued.

4 (c) *Cut-off on default.*

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

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

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

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

12 (ii) [(2)] either:

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

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

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

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

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

25 (I) SUBMITS, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, A SIGNED
26 COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WATER BILL REQUEST FORM; OR

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1 (II) DOES NOT SUBMIT A COPY OF THE WATER BILL REQUEST FORM, BUT
2 PROVIDES, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, 1 OF THE
3 FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS, WHICH SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO THE INDIVIDUAL
4 AT THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THEY ARE REQUESTING A COPY OF THE
5 WATER BILL:

6 (A) A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD;

7 (B) A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD;

8 (C) 2 PIECES OF MAIL;

9 (D) A UTILITY BILL;

10 (E) A PAY STUB; OR

11 (F) A LETTER FROM A LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
12 AGENCY.

13 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL
14 VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, IF REQUESTED.

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

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

20 ~~(F) RESIDENTIAL WATER UTILITY CUSTOMER REQUESTS.~~

21 ~~THE DEPARTMENT MUST TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL TO~~
22 ~~A RESIDENTIAL WATER UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:~~

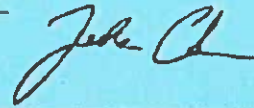
23 ~~(1) REQUESTS A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL ISSUED DURING A TIME~~
24 ~~PERIOD THE CUSTOMER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE BILL; AND~~

25 ~~(2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE CUSTOMER OWNS AND OCCUPIES THE~~
26 ~~PROPERTY AS THE CUSTOMER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.~~

27 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
28 after the date it is enacted.

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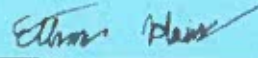
Certified as duly passed this 29th day of September, 2025



President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 29th day of September, 2025



Chief Clerk

Approved this 23 day of October, 2025

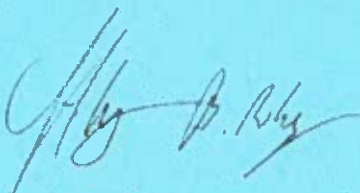


Mayor, Baltimore City

A TRUE COPY
Director of Finance

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency.

this 29th day of September, 2025



Chief Solicitor