

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject: Position:	20-0626 – Water Accountability and Equity Act - Modifications NO POSITION		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

November 12, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #20-0626, entitled, “Water Accountability and Equity Act - Modifications.” The purpose of this bill is to clarify tenants’ rights under the Water Accountability and Equity Act and the structure and role of the Office of Water-Customer Advocacy and Appeals.

BCHD was supportive of the Water Accountability and Equity Act’s passage as water bills can affect housing security. Housing security, in turn, is a critical social determinant of health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic wherein housing can affect an individual’s ability to maintain social distance or quarantine. Considering this bill leaves the Act’s primary provisions and goals unchanged, however, BCHD defers to the Department of Public Works on its implementation and takes **no position** on Council Bill #20-0626.