

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0061R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Ramos, Parker, Conway,
Middleton, Torrence, and Jones

Introduced and read first time: July 13, 2026

Assigned to: Committee on Legislative Investigations

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department, Department of Public Works, Fire
Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Impact of Brownouts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Health Department, the Department of Public Works, and the
4 Office of Emergency Management, and inviting representatives from the Maryland Public
5 Service Commission, the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, and any interested energy
6 experts and stakeholders, to appear before the City Council to discuss the public health,
7 safety, and economic impact of electrical brownouts in the City, including an assessment of
8 the City's brownout response preparedness to protect communities burdened by
9 environmental and infrastructural inequities.

10 **Recitals**

11 A brownout is a drop in voltage available to a power system, often caused by high demand or
12 overburdened grid infrastructure. While less severe than a complete blackout, brownouts can
13 still damage and disrupt electrical systems and devices. The loss of services due to a brownout
14 can have a negative impact on the health, safety, and economic well-being of the public.
15 Computers and digital systems can lose data and experience errors, traffic lights may malfunction
16 and create unsafe traffic conditions, and heat and cooling systems may be disabled during severe
17 weather events. Communities that are already disproportionately affected by environmental harm
18 and aging infrastructure may suffer more frequent brownouts and more serious effects.

19 The demand on the City's power infrastructure, and the resulting risk of brownouts, will
20 increase along with the regional proliferation of data centers and climate-driven severe weather
21 events. Therefore, the City Council has an interest in assessing the impact of brownouts and the
22 City's ability to protect its residents from the resultant harm.

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
24 Council requires the Health Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Office of
25 Emergency Management, and invites representatives from the Maryland Public Service
26 Commission, Baltimore Gas and Electric, and any interested energy experts and stakeholders, to
27 appear before the City Council to discuss the public health, safety, and economic impact of
28 electrical brownouts in the City, including an assessment of the City's brownout response
29 preparedness to protect communities burdened by environmental and infrastructural inequities.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Health
2 Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Office of
3 Emergency Management, the Chair and members of the Public Service Commission, the CEO of
4 the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, the CEO of the Exelon Corporation, and the Mayor's
5 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.