

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

(A) A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD;

(B) A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD;

(C) 2 PIECES OF MAIL;

(D) A UTILITY BILL;

(E) A PAY STUB; OR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City