

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0274
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett, Bullock, Cohen, Porter, Glover, Ramos, Dorsey,
Conway, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: September 12, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Water Bills – Right to Review**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a customer with a copy
4 of a certain water bill upon request and submission of specified documentation.

5 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

6 Article 24 - Water

7 Section 2-1

8 Baltimore City Code

9 (Edition 2000)

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

12 **Baltimore City Code**

13 **Article 24. Water**

14 **Subtitle 2. Bills**

15 **§ 2-1. Bills.**

16 (a) *Finance to collect.*

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

19 (b) *When due.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (II) [(2)] either:

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

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

14 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MUST TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER
15 BILL TO A TENANT-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:

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

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

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

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

27 (F) *RESIDENTIAL-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER REQUESTS.*

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

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

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

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