

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0156R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett
Introduced and adopted: February 6, 2023

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action - Emergency Rental Assistance

1
2 FOR the purpose of calling upon the Governor and Maryland General Assembly to allocate \$175
3 million in fiscal year 2024 to help an estimated 17,000 Maryland families avoid eviction.

4 **WHEREAS**, economic instability in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and rampant rent
5 inflation continue to push tens of thousands of low-income households to the brink of
6 homelessness.

7 **WHEREAS**, evictions in Baltimore City, alone, this past September and November surpassed
8 the 2019 tallies for those months and are rapidly rising to pre-pandemic levels throughout the
9 State.

10 **WHEREAS**, emergency rental assistance has helped over 100,000 Maryland households,
11 including more than 13,000 households in Baltimore City, avoid eviction during the COVID-19
12 pandemic.

13 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City and jurisdictions throughout Maryland are facing a funding cliff
14 in March and April of 2023 that will end emergency rental assistance throughout the State.

15 **WHEREAS**, eviction prevention furthers gender and racial equity; of the households that
16 avoided eviction with help from Maryland's current emergency rental assistance program, 70%
17 were woman-led and 74% were Black-led. Based on trends in eviction demographics, these
18 families will likely be subject to eviction at much higher rates than other families if this program
19 ends.

20 **WHEREAS**, 52% of households facing eviction in Maryland are families with children.

21 **WHEREAS**, anyone can find themselves temporarily unable to pay the rent due to a medical
22 emergency, car accident, funeral, or job loss, and the past 2 pandemic years have shown that such
23 economic setbacks do not have to become catastrophic events that result in eviction.

24 **WHEREAS**, with an allocation of State funds for emergency rental assistance, right to counsel
25 in evictions, and housing stability services, Maryland can create a more equitable, sustainable
26 housing economy.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 23-0156R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
2 Baltimore City Council calls upon the Governor and Maryland General Assembly to allocate
3 \$175 million in fiscal year 2024 to help an estimated 17,000 Maryland families avoid eviction.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
5 Honorable Chairs and members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
6 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland
7 House of Delegates, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.