

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0095R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes and President Young, Councilmembers Dorsey, Costello, Bullock, Burnett, Schleifer, Pinkett, Cohen, Sneed, Reisinger, Middleton, Scott, Henry

Introduced and read first time: August 6, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Health Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Baltimore City Public Schools and the Use of Bottled Water**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director  
4 of Baltimore City’s Department of Public Works, and the Health Commissioner to appear  
5 before the City Council to provide information about why the water fountains in City schools  
6 are not being used, about the costs to the school system for the use of bottled water since  
7 2007, about the results of water testing in the schools since 2007, and about any plans to  
8 restore school water fountains and other water use equipment to safe use.

9 **Recitals**

10 In November 2007, former Baltimore City Public School System CEO Dr. Alonso  
11 announced a system-wide shift to bottled drinking water for students, teachers, staff, and visitors.  
12 This policy was prompted by the fact that new testing had found several water fountains that had  
13 passed previous tests for lead had subsequently failed. Dr. Alonso said “Maintenance of the  
14 existing water fountains is not worth the expense and concern. It is more cost effective to  
15 provide bottled water than to continue to flush, test, and review hundreds of water fountains  
16 across the school system each year.”

17 Now, almost 11 years later, the school system is still using bottled water. There are reports  
18 that at some schools the large jugs of bottled water are being used by students after physical  
19 activities because water from school showers is not allowed to be used because of the safety  
20 issues with the old pipes.

21 In July 2017, an article in the *Baltimore Sun* said that the school system, at an estimated cost  
22 of \$3 million, had contracted with a company to install and test filters at school system  
23 headquarters and 2 elementary schools, to see if this lead removal system worked. If successful,  
24 the school system would seek bids to install filters at nearly 160 schools, thus ending 10 years of  
25 reliance on bottled water. But the results of this experiment are known only to the school  
26 system, and schools have continued to use bottled water.

27 Over the years, what has been the actual cost for the bottled water? What has been the actual  
28 cost for paper cups used by the students? What impact has the use of bottled water had on  
29 recycling or trash accumulation in the schools?

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

**Council Bill 18-0095R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the CEO  
2 of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of Baltimore City’s Department of  
3 Public Works, and the Health Commissioner are requested to appear before the City Council to  
4 provide information about why the water fountains in City schools are not being used, about the  
5 costs to the school system for the use of bottled water since 2007, about the results of water  
6 testing in the schools since 2007, and about any plans to restore school water fountains and other  
7 water use equipment to safe use.

8       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the CEO of the  
9 Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of Baltimore City’s Department of Public  
10 Works, the Health Commissioner, and to the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City  
11 Council.