

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0111R
(Resolution)**

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

Introduced and read first time: October 15, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Department of Real Estate, Office of Sustainability, Department of Transportation, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Baltimore Development Corporation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Baltimore Metropolitan Drinking Supply**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for a hearing to investigate the quality of source water for the
4 Baltimore Metropolitan drinking supply, the impacts of activities and land uses at City-
5 owned reservoir lands and throughout their watersheds, costs associated with such activities
6 and land uses; and calling on representatives of the Department of Public Works, the
7 Environmental Police, the Department of Real Estate, the Office of Sustainability, the
8 Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the
9 Baltimore Metropolitan Council to report on such concerns.

10 **Recitals**

11 Baltimore City gets its drinking water from three reservoirs and their respective watersheds,
12 and shares the supply with Baltimore, Howard, Harford, Carroll, and Anne Arundel Counties.
13 The Director of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works is responsible for adopting and
14 enforcing rules and regulations governing the protection of the City's water supply and facilities.
15 In 2005, the City and surrounding Counties agreed to ensure that the three reservoirs and their
16 respective watersheds provide high quality raw water for the water-supply system and support
17 environmental and aesthetic initiatives, as well as beneficial recreational uses, for surface water.

18 Inevitably, each of the Baltimore region's reservoir watersheds is impaired by pollutants.
19 These pollutants, which are sometimes introduced into the water via land use activities, make
20 water treatment costs rise. Water rates for Baltimore City residents have increased in recent
21 years, which has made the cost of drinking water prohibitive for low income residents. In
22 coming decades prices could rise even higher, and the purity of the drinking water supply could
23 be compromised, as the effects of climate change increasingly strain the reservoir's
24 infrastructure.

25 Improper land use, including the removal of natural buffer zones around the reservoirs,
26 endangers the future of Baltimore City's water supply. The City Council would like to collect

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

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1 information on land use and their impact on water quality from the Department of Public Works,
2 the Environmental Police, the Department of Real Estate, the Office of Sustainability, the
3 Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Baltimore
4 Metropolitan Council. Specifically, the City Council would like these groups to report on:

- 5 • leasing contracts for City property at reservoirs with non-City agencies/entities;
- 6 • right of entry and recreational permits at reservoirs;
- 7 • the impacts of the Pine Ridge Golf Course, the Baltimore County Police training range,
8 the Loch Raven skeet and trap center, and the Loch Raven Fishing Center;
- 9 • the impacts of recreational activity generally;
- 10 • mowing and other maintenance performed by Baltimore City employees or contractors
11 that is not strictly for public safety purposes or resource management access;
- 12 • the impact of land use change and forest loss in reservoir watersheds;
- 13 • risks posed by extreme weather and climate change;
- 14 • how often algae blooms, fish kills, turbidity and other irregular and detrimental events
15 occur, as well as where public information about these events can be found, how this
16 information is being used to protect our water source, and whether this information is
17 being used to determine upgrades to green and/or gray infrastructure; and
- 18 • any other matter concerning source water quality impacts or adjacent uses.

19 The groups should also report on measures being taken to protect the source of our drinking
20 water and to limit the expense and dangers of chemical water treatment to Baltimore City water
21 consumers, including information regarding:

- 22 • all leases and agreements concerning development within the Baltimore City Water
23 Quality Management Areas to include all environmental and financial costs;
- 24 • the status of instituting recommendations from the Maryland Department of Natural
25 Resources' 2004 Reservoir Forest Study;
- 26 • whether the level of cooperation between the signors of the 2005 Reservoir Management
27 Agreement meets the required level of cooperation mandated in the Agreement;
- 28 • progress in meeting the established Total Maximum Daily Loads for Maryland 303(d)
29 listed impairments to water quality in each of the three reservoirs and their contributing
30 tributaries;
- 31 • the Baltimore Environmental Police's operations, observations, recent successes, and
32 areas for improvement; and
- 33 • policies and procedures to identify and mitigate threats to Baltimore City water
34 consumers from environmental hazards within its watershed.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
2 Council calls for a hearing to investigate the quality of source water for the Baltimore
3 Metropolitan drinking supply, the impacts of activities and land uses at City-owned reservoir
4 lands and throughout their watersheds, costs associated with such activities and land uses; and in
5 doing so, calls on the Department of Public Works, the Environmental Police, the Department of
6 Real Estate, the Office of Sustainability, the Department of Transportation, the Mayor’s Office of
7 Emergency Management, and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to report on such concerns.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Department of
9 Public Works Director, the Baltimore Environmental Police Chief, the Baltimore City Real
10 Estate Officer, the Director of Sustainability, the Director of Transportation, the Director of the
11 Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management, the Chairman of the Baltimore Metropolitan
12 Council, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.