



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 22-0274      **Version:** 0      **Name:** Water Bills - Right to Review  
**Type:** Ordinance      **Status:** Failed - End of Term  
**File created:** 9/12/2022      **In control:** Baltimore City Council  
**On agenda:**      **Final action:** 12/4/2024  
**Enactment date:**      **Enactment #:**  
**Title:** Water Bills - Right to Review  
 For the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a customer with a copy of a certain water bill upon request and submission of specified documentation.  
**Sponsors:** Kristerfer Burnett, John Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Phylicia Porter, Antonio "Tony" Glover, Odette Ramos, Ryan Dorsey, Mark Conway, Sharon Green Middleton  
**Indexes:** Rights, Water Bills  
**Code sections:**  
**Attachments:** 1. 22-0274(1)~1st Reader, 2. Law 22-0274

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/15/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Fire Department	
9/15/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Public Works	
9/15/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Public Works	
9/15/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Finance	
9/15/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to City Solicitor	
9/12/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Assigned	
9/12/2022	0	Baltimore City Council	Introduced	

**Explanation:** Capitals indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

\* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.  
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

**Introductory\***

**City of Baltimore  
Council Bill**

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett

A Bill Entitled

An Ordinance concerning  
**Water Bills - Right to Review**

For the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a customer with a copy of a certain water 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.

(b) *When due.*

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

(c) *Cut-off on default.*

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

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

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

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

(ii) [(2)] either:

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

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

(2) The Department must timely provide a copy of a water or wastewater bill to a tenant-water-utility customer who:

(i) requests a copy of a water or wastewater bill issued during a time period the tenant was responsible for paying the bill; and

(ii) provides the Department with a copy of a written lease for the property, as provided in City Code Article 13, § 7-3(a-1), that includes a requirement that the tenant pay for the

costs of water or wastewater services.

(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 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted.