

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**ORDINANCE 25-047**  
**Council Bill 25-0050**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Gray  
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Conway, Torrence, Bullock, Porter,  
Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, Middleton, and President Cohen  
Introduced and read first time: April 7, 2025  
Assigned to: Housing and Economic Development Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable, with amendments  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: September 15, 2025

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Water Bill – Tenant Right to Review**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to provide a specified person with a copy of a certain water or wastewater 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.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1       (b) *When due.*

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

4       (c) *Cut-off on default.*

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

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

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

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

12               (II) [(2)] either:

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

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

17           (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER  
18           BILL TO A TENANT-WATER-UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:

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

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

25               (I) SUBMITS, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, A SIGNED  
26               COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WATER BILL REQUEST FORM; OR



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1                   (II) DOES NOT SUBMIT A COPY OF THE WATER BILL REQUEST FORM, BUT  
2                   PROVIDES, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, 1 OF THE  
3                   FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS, WHICH SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO THE INDIVIDUAL  
4                   AT THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THEY ARE REQUESTING A COPY OF THE  
5                   WATER BILL:

6                   (A) A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD;

7                   (B) A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD;

8                   (C) 2 PIECES OF MAIL;

9                   (D) A UTILITY BILL;

10                  (E) A PAY STUB; OR

11                  (F) A LETTER FROM A LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
12                  AGENCY.

13                  (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL  
14                  VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS, IF REQUESTED.

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

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

20                  ~~(F) RESIDENTIAL WATER UTILITY CUSTOMER REQUESTS.~~

21                  ~~THE DEPARTMENT MUST TIMELY PROVIDE A COPY OF A WATER OR WASTEWATER BILL TO~~  
22                  ~~A RESIDENTIAL WATER UTILITY CUSTOMER WHO:~~

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

25                  ~~(2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE CUSTOMER OWNS AND OCCUPIES THE~~  
26                  ~~PROPERTY AS THE CUSTOMER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.~~

27                  **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
28                  after the date it is enacted.

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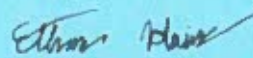
Certified as duly passed this 29th day of September, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 29th day of September, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this 23 day of October, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency.

this 29th day of September, 2025



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Chief Solicitor