

SENATE BILL 157

L2

3lr0371

By: **Senators Conway, Ferguson, Jones–Rodwell, McFadden, and Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Fees and Penalties for Unpaid Water and Sewer Usage**
3 **Charges for Residential Customers**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City from
5 imposing on a residential customer certain fees or penalties for unpaid water or
6 sewer usage charges that exceed a certain amount per year; and generally
7 relating to fees and penalties for unpaid water and sewer usage charges in
8 Baltimore City.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 The Charter of Baltimore City
11 Article II – General Powers
12 Section (45)
13 (2007 Replacement Volume, as amended)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **The Charter of Baltimore City**

17 **Article II – General Powers**

18 The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to
19 exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of
20 Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and
21 in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or
22 such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of
23 said Constitution and Public General Laws:

24 (45)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A)** To establish, operate, maintain, regulate and control a system of water
2 supply and to make charges for the consumption or use of such water; to appoint
3 watchmen or police officers for the protection of its water supply within or without the
4 City limits.

5 To turn off and discontinue the supply of water furnished by the Mayor and City
6 Council of Baltimore to any person or property located in or outside of the City of
7 Baltimore because of the nonpayment of any fee or charge for water supplied or for
8 work done in connection with the furnishing of such water until such unpaid fee or
9 charge is fully paid; and to regulate, in or outside of the City of Baltimore, the
10 installation of water supply service connections from the Baltimore City water supply
11 system in such manner as to prevent the existence of cross connections between such
12 source of supply and any private system of water supply that may exist within the
13 premises served.

14 **(B) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MAY NOT IMPOSE ON A**
15 **RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER ANY FEE OR PENALTY FOR UNPAID WATER OR SEWER**
16 **USAGE CHARGES THAT EXCEED \$500 PER YEAR.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2013.