



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: [HB0220](#) - Environment - Water - Individual Unit Meters

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst, Progressive Maryland

Date: 01/29/2026

Greetings Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Iman Habib and I am the Climate Policy Analyst for Progressive Maryland, a multi-racial, working class, power-building organization which upholds environmental and housing justice. Our membership spans across Maryland, and a substantial portion of members live in Baltimore City, where most multifamily homes in the state of Maryland are concentrated.

We understand that occupants in these densely populated areas are subject to a plethora of environmental and social burdens which exacerbate their living situation, not to mention their ability to afford housing. In an era where energy bills are soaring at unprecedented rates and the state's most underserved are struggling to make ends meet, we should ensure that other utility bills are as low as possible.

Much like electricity usage is quantified using individual electric meters, it only makes sense to treat water utilities similarly by measuring water usage through individual water meters which will yield the most accurate consumption. Installing individual meters in housing units will ensure that families are charged equitably and that the most disadvantaged tenants do not have to shoulder the costs of cumulative building water usage or weak building infrastructure. These meters will also be required to have leak detection devices that will project leaks and limit damage in a more robust manner.

This bill promotes transparency and accuracy by requiring record keeping of individually-calculated household water bills that can be made available to tenants. In cases where tenants choose to dispute their bills due to inaccuracies or unknown charges on bill receipts, property owners cannot designate these bills as "unpaid" and therefore will be unable to use these grounds as means for eviction.

Neighborhoods in Baltimore City who are facing the multitude of adverse environmental and health effects associated with exposure to polluting facilities, coupled with economic obstacles and high energy bills should not be paying extra fees for water usage costs that they did not incur. Progressive Maryland urges a favorable vote for House Bill 0220 which will carve a pathway toward housing justice and promote affordable housing for the state's most underserved communities.

Thank you for your consideration and time.