A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning
Metropolitan District – Review of Wastewater User Charges – Time for Request

FOR the purpose of amending the time to request a review of annual Metropolitan District wastewater user charges; requiring procedure to request review be written on consumer bill; and generally relating to requests for review of wastewater user charges.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 20-3-214
Article 20 - Metropolitan District
Title 3 - Charges and Assessments
Subtitle 2 – Authorized Charges and Assessments
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
Strike out indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

ARTICLE 20 – METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Title 3 - Charges and Assessments

Subtitle 2 – Authorized Charges and Assessments

§ 20-3-214. – Duty of Director of Budget and Finance in Making Up Tax Bills; Payment Required When Taxes Paid.

(a) It shall be the duty of the Director of Budget and Finance, in making up the tax bills, to make provision under appropriate heading for a statement thereon of and to state thereon the amount of such assessments and charges (except water service charges) due for the current year and of the amount thereof in arrears. Should a tax be imposed on any taxable property of the metropolitan district or of the county under any provision of this article, the rate and amount of such tax shall be also appropriately shown on the tax bill. The Director of Budget and Finance shall accept no taxes on real estate unless tendered at the same time payment of all metropolitan
district assessments, charges, and taxes shown on his books as liens on the property with respect
to which taxes are tendered.

(b) THE DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND FINANCE SHALL REQUIRE THAT ALL
STATEMENTS PREPARED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) CONSPICUOUSLY STATE
IN A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH UNDER ITS OWN BOLDED HEADING LABELED
“REVIEW BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS” THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:
“PURSUANT TO § 20-5-110 OF THE COUNTY CODE, ANY REQUESTS FOR REVIEW OF
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT WASTEWATER USER CHARGES SHALL BE
ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN
240 DAYS AFTER MAILING OF THE BILL FOR SUCH CHARGES.” THE DIRECTOR
SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER FOR
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

(C) All unpaid amounts shall bear interest at the rate as provided in § 11-2-303 of the
code or as amended from time to time until paid. In the event there be established under any
ordinance or law the practice of permitting payments in the county of taxes in installments, the
provisions herein with respect to payment of metropolitan district annual assessments and
charges in installments shall cease to be operative, and in lieu thereof with respect to each
assessable property all metropolitan district annual assessments and charges thereon shall be
included in the taxes thereon and collected together, in installments.
(a) Any person liable for the payment of the user charges imposed pursuant to this title and who disputes such charges may, within [ninety (90)] TWO HUNDRED FORTY (240) days after mailing of the bill for such charges, request the Director of Public Works to review the charges imposed. Such requests for review shall be in such form, contain such information, and be supported by such documents as the Director of Public Works may require. The Director of Public Works shall investigate the merits of all such requests, and the person requesting review shall be entitled to a hearing before the Director of Public Works or designee. After investigation and hearing, if requested, the Director of Public Works shall, by written notice, notify the person requesting review of the action taken. If the Director of Public Works or designee determines that all or any part of the charges were erroneously, mistakenly, or illegally charged or collected, such charges shall either be abated or refunded.

TIMELINESS OF THE REQUEST, A LIST OF THE CALCULATED DEADLINES AND
COORESPONDING DATE THE REQUEST WAS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT SUCH
DENIAL; THE NUMBER OF APPEALS FILED UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE BOARD
OF APPEALS; THE NUMBER OF DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE BOARD OF
APPEALS IN SUCH CASES; THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE BOARD OF
APPEALS RULED IN FAVOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; THE
NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE BOARD OF APPEALS RULED IN FAVOR OF THE
CUSTOMER; THE ANNUAL CUMULATIVE AND AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF
ALL REFUNDS OR ADJUSTMENTS MADE UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY
AUDITOR AN INTERIM REPORT, NO LATER THAN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE END
OF FISCAL YEAR 2019, THAT SHALL CONSIST OF THE SAME INFORMATION
REQUIRED FOR AN ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS BILL

SECTION 2.3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect on April 29, 2019.