

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE BUDGET**

BILL NO. 61-20

DATE: July 17, 2020

FISCAL NOTE

BILL: AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: PUBLIC WORKS - UTILITIES

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of this legislation is to clarify the implementation of backflow prevention and make various changes to metered water and wastewater procedures and charges.

FISCAL IMPACT

Overall, the changes included in this bill are estimated to have a net positive fiscal impact to the County. Provisions with an estimated fiscal impact include:

- Allowing for back billing for water or wastewater charges for a period not to exceed three years for any billings that are incorrect or not made. This will increase revenue, however the precise amount is unknown due to reporting limitations in the Munis financial system. The Department of Public Works (DPW) estimates that adjustments for incorrect billing total roughly 5% of total utility billing adjustments annually. If DPW were to recoup payment from the correct party, revenues could increase by up to \$50,000 annually.
- Allowing a waiver of water or wastewater usage bills for any property that becomes uninhabitable. The DPW is aware of 10 nonresidential properties that meet the definition of uninhabitable. Loss of revenue from those properties is estimated to be less than \$4,000 annually.
- Increasing from \$500 to \$1,000 the amount of reimbursement to a residential customer for property damage as a result of a sewer system backup. In fiscal 2019, DPW provided six reimbursements, at a total cost of \$3,000. The proposed increase to the reimbursement amount would have increased costs in fiscal 2019 by \$3,000.

Other provisions of this bill are estimated to have no fiscal impact.



Jim Beauchamp
Budget Officer

17 July 2020

Date

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