

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2019, Legislative Day No. 12

Resolution No. 82-19

Councilmembers Marks, Kach, Crandell, Patoka, Bevins & Quirk

By the County Council, July 1, 2019

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council urging the creation of a regional management authority to specifically address the future infrastructure needs of the County's public water and sewer system.

WHEREAS, the water main breaks over the last several year in areas of the County, and most recently the failure on York Road near Padonia Road, have demonstrated that the County's public water infrastructure may be approaching the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, the staggering cost of maintaining, operating, rehabilitating, and replacing the County's – and the entire region's – aging public utility infrastructure requires a partnership between federal, state and local government, and between local governments in the region served by the water system; and

WHEREAS, the current process for the management of the County water system was created in 1924 when the General Assembly of Maryland approved the Metropolitan District Act; and

WHEREAS, under the Metropolitan District Act, Baltimore City provides water to the Metropolitan District at cost. Water, principally from sources located within the County, is treated, delivered and distributed by the City to County residents, and the City bills for these services at rates designed to reimburse the City at cost. By agreement, the City operates and maintains all water facilities and infrastructure, and the County pays its share of the cost for

facilities in the County; and

WHEREAS, under the agreement, the City and County have also agreed to pay for certain new capital projects and the repair and enlargement of additions or improvements to certain existing water facilities on a specified pro-rata basis; and

WHEREAS, similar arrangements exist with other counties in the region for the provision of water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, the existing system has for many years served the residents of the region well, but the condition of the infrastructure argues for a review of the current system and the consideration of a new method of handling the water and sewer needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and the Mayor of the City of Baltimore recently announced that the City and County will jointly initiate a comprehensive review of the business processes that govern the water delivery system that serves both jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the County Council believes it is appropriate that, in addition to the comprehensive review of the business processes, Baltimore County, the City, and all other involved jurisdictions should also consider the creation of an independent regional management authority to handle the water and sewer needs of the region; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the County Administration is urged to investigate, along with representatives of State government, Baltimore City, and the counties served by the Metropolitan District law, the feasibility of creating an independent regional water/sewer management authority to handle the region's water and sewer needs.