

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 13

Resolution No. 181 -2015

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
and Cosponsored by Greg Fox

A RESOLUTION amending schedules for various charges related to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee; removing certain fees because they are being transferred to the County Code; providing for an effective date of certain changes; providing for certain changes to be effective in Fiscal Year 2018.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2015.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2015.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted __, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __, by the County Council
on _____, 2016.

Certified By _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no changes are proposed to the
2 Reimbursement Schedule, the Assistance Program Schedule, or the Credit Program for Fiscal
3 Year 2017, beginning on July 1, 2016.
4

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Council Bill No. 52-
6 2015, the Credit Program, Reimbursement Schedule, and Assistance Program Schedule shall
7 cease to exist on July 1, 2017.
8

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be effective on July 1,
10 2016.

[[RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

These charges are set pursuant to Sections 20.1103 and 20.1104 of the Howard County Code which provide for the County Council to adopt, by resolution, a schedule of rates for residential properties

Townhouse or Condominium units	\$15
Single Family Detached	
Properties up to and including .25 acres	\$45
Properties larger than .25 acres	\$90]]

REIMBURSEMENTS

These rates are set pursuant to Sections 20.1104 and 20.1106 of the Howard County Code which provide for the County Council to adjust the Watershed Protection and Restoration fee through the use of a one-time reimbursement.

All properties, or portions of properties, that are not currently treated to the levels of the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual are eligible for the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Reimbursement program. The reimbursement is not a credit, but a one-time payment for an investment made by the property owner that benefits the public stormwater management system.

The County will grant reimbursements up to the maximum amounts listed below:

Practice	Maximum Residential Reimbursement	Maximum Non-Residential Reimbursement
Rain Garden	\$1,200 total	\$5,000 total – maximum reimbursement is \$1 per SF impervious area treated
Conservation Landscaping (Turf or Invasive Species Replacement)	\$250-\$750 total – maximum reimbursement is \$1 per SF; minimum treatment area is 250 SF	\$3,000 total – maximum reimbursement is \$3 per SF; minimum treatment area is 350 SF
Urban Tree Canopy	\$600 total – \$150 per tree; minimum 2 inch caliper (deciduous) or 6 feet tall (evergreen)	\$600 total – \$150 per tree; minimum 2 inch caliper (deciduous) or 6 feet tall (evergreen)
Permeable Pavers	\$1,200 total – minimum paver area of 100 SF	\$5,000 total – minimum paver area of 350 SF
Pavement Removal	\$600-\$1,200 – minimum amount removed is 100 SF	\$1,800-\$5,000 – minimum amount removed is 300 SF
Green Roof	\$1,200 – minimum area treated is 300 SF or ¼ roof retrofit	\$5,000 – minimum area treated is 300 SF or ¼ roof retrofit
Cisterns	\$500 – maximum reimbursement is \$1 per gallon stored; 250 gallon minimum	\$2,000 – maximum reimbursement is \$1 per gallon stored; 250 gallon minimum
Dry Wells	\$600	\$600

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December 15, 2015

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chairperson, District 2
Mr. Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson, District 1
Ms. Jen Terrasa, Councilmember, District 3
Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty, Councilmember, District 4
Mr. Greg Fox, Councilmember, District 5
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4392

RE: CB52-2015, CR181-2015, and CR182-2015

Dear Members of the County Council:

The Howard County Association of REALTORS® supports the enactment of CB52-2015 which calls for the reduction of the existing Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee beginning on July 1, 2016 and the repeal of certain provisions in the County Code related to the fee as of July 1, 2017.

Among the jurisdictions in Maryland that impose this tax on its residents, Howard County's fee structure is the 4th highest and is slated to increase in the coming years if CB52-2015 is not passed. This tax impairs housing affordability for potential buyers in the County, increases rent, increases homeowners' monthly mortgage payments and reduces the amount of disposable household family incomes. This tax burden is particularly onerous to our low- to moderate-income families.

This tax also harms the County's commercial and industrial property owners. By significantly increasing commercial property tax bills by 10% or more, businesses in the County must ultimately pass on to the consumer, many of whom are also County residents, higher prices for goods and services. Moreover, higher taxes make Howard County less attractive to commercial enterprises seeking a place to establish, grow and create job opportunities.

Please support passage of CB52-2015 and the accompanying resolutions CR181-2015, and CR182-2015. Broad based home affordability and economic growth are critical to the long-term health and vibrancy of Howard County.

Sincerely yours,

Alicyn DelZoppo
President
Howard County Association of REALTORS®

**PLEASE SEE CB52-2015
FOR ADDITIONAL
TESTIMONY RELATED
TO STORMWATER FEES**