



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Bill: 21-0074

Office of Emergency Management - Independent Agency

Sponsor: Councilmember Conway, et al

Introduced: May 3, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of repealing Article 1, Subtitle 18 {"Disaster Control and Civil Defense"} as obsolete; establishing an Office of Emergency Management as an independent agency; defining certain terms; providing for the appointment of an Executive Director of the Office; setting forth certain duties of the Executive Director; providing for a staff and budget for the Office; requiring the Office to include specific Emergency Support Functions in the Emergency Operations Plan; requiring the Office to coordinate with certain City agencies in writing the Emergency Operations Plan; requiring the Office to update the City Emergency Operations Plan quadrennially and submit the updated Plan and a memorandum regarding changes made to the Plan to the Mayor and the City Council; requiring the Office to report annually to the Mayor and the City Council on certain activities and metrics; and providing for a special effective date.

Effective: July 1, 2022

AGENCY REPORTS

City Administrator	
Fire Department	Opposed
Office of Emergency Management	Opposed
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	Favorable with Amendment

ANALYSIS

Current Law and Background

Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code requires each political subdivision to establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance with the State emergency management plan and program. The director of each local organization is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the mayor, executive, or governing body of the subdivision.

Article I, Subtitle 18 of the Baltimore City Code created an Office of Disaster Control and Civil Defense for Baltimore City.

The Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management currently operates as part of the Baltimore City Fire Department. The Office is responsible for preparing the City for major emergencies such as hurricanes, power outages, hazardous materials incidents, and acts of terrorism. The Office's responsibilities also include 24/7 field response and Citywide coordination for incidents and events that are high risk, prolonged, widespread, or complex. The fiscal 2023 budget for the Office of Emergency Management (Service 608: Emergency Management) is \$ 8,877,753 and includes 15 positions.

Bill Summary

The bill would repeal the existing Article I, Subtitle 18 of the Baltimore City Code as obsolete and replace it with a new provision establishing an independent Office of Emergency Management. The bill further provides that an Executive Director, nominated by the Mayor and appointed by the Governor, would lead the Office.

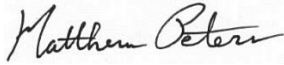
The bill would give the Executive Director specific powers and duties related to emergency planning, preparation, and training. The Executive Director would be required to prepare an Emergency Operations Plan, including specific emergency support functions, and to update the plan every four years. The bill would also require the Executive Director to submit an annual report detailing specific emergency incidents and activities of the Office.

The bill includes an effective date of July 1, 2022, and several proposed deadlines that have already passed since the bill's introduction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Maryland Code, Baltimore City Code, Fiscal 2023 Agency Budget Detail, Reporting Agencies, Bill 21-0074.



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