

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0163  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Porter, Bullock, Ramos, Cohen, Torrence

Introduced and read first time: October 4, 2021

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Fire  
Department, City Administrator

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Study and Report: Evaluation of the**  
3 **Emergency Medical Services System**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Baltimore City Fire Department to submit a report to the Mayor  
5 and City Council evaluating the Department's current Emergency Medical Services (EMS)  
6 delivery model and exploring the creation of an EMS bureau in the Baltimore City Fire  
7 Department; and providing for a special effective date.

8 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

9 (a) No later than 150 days from the enactment of this Ordinance, the Baltimore City Fire  
10 Department, in consultation with the City Administrator or the City Administrator's  
11 designee and the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, shall submit a report  
12 to the Mayor and City Council setting forth a comprehensive evaluation of the cost  
13 and feasibility of establishing an EMS bureau to be led by an assistant chief of the  
14 Baltimore City Fire Department, and to be supported by 2 EMS deputy chiefs.

15 (b) The report shall include:

16 (1) a breakdown of:

17 (i) the total number of personnel holding emergency medical technician or  
18 paramedic certifications that are assigned to the EMS Division;

19 (ii) the total number of full-time and peak medical transport units the  
20 Department has in service daily; and

21 (iii) the protocols used to determine if the critical alert medic unit is placed in  
22 service;

23 (2) a projection of the staffing and operational cost requirements to transition all of  
24 the Department's peak medical transport units to full-time units;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

## Council Bill 21-0163

- 1 (3) the total number of calls for service received by the Department over the last 7  
2 years, broken down between medical responses and fire responses;
- 3 (4) the total number and percentage of low-acuity medical calls for service, in  
4 comparison to advanced life support calls for service, that the Department has  
5 received over the last 7 years;
- 6 (5) an assessment of what impact, if any, the use of the current two-tiered structure  
7 and the medical duty officer have had on reducing the call volume in the EMS  
8 system;
- 9 (6) a comprehensive review of the strengths and weaknesses of the Mobile Integrated  
10 Health – Community Paramedicine pilot program, including proposed  
11 recommendations to fully implement and expand the program citywide with other  
12 healthcare systems;
- 13 (7) a comparative study of 5 fire departments that currently use some model of  
14 alternative non-emergency transportation, including, but not limited to:
  - 15 (i) ride-share programs;
  - 16 (ii) medic buses; and
  - 17 (iii) medical chase cars;
- 18 (8) a 5-year estimate of funds that were not reimbursed by the Center for Medicare  
19 and Medicaid Services due to federal statutory restrictions governing EMS for  
20 alternative handling of 911 calls, and recommendations on legislative proposals  
21 that need to be examined to address this funding gap;
- 22 (9) a comprehensive evaluation of at least 3 jurisdictions that are currently using their  
23 fire department as the lead agency to handle 911-diverted responses to behavioral  
24 and mental health crisis resources, and a draft proposal to include a cost and  
25 feasibility report on how a comparable program could be developed and  
26 implemented in Baltimore City; and
- 27 (10) an evaluation of:
  - 28 (i) the Department's full-time data and performance management program;
  - 29 (ii) how the program is used to monitor Departmental operations for resource  
30 allocation and deployment strategies; and
  - 31 (iii) if a modern data and performance management program does not exist, a  
32 comprehensive plan on the time line and steps that will be required to  
33 implement one.

34 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
35 enacted.