


FROM	Name & Title	Niles R. Ford, Fire Chief <i>NRF</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 E. Fayette Street, Mezzanine		
	Subject	City Council Bill #21-0163: Study and Report: Evaluation of Emergency Medical Services System		

TO: The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408

DATE: April 4, 2022

For the purpose of requiring the Baltimore City Fire Department to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the Department’s current Emergency Medical Services (EMS) delivery model and exploring the creation of an EMS bureau in the Baltimore City Fire Department, and providing for a special effective date.

The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD or the Department) does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0163. However, the Department respectfully submits the following concerns:

- The report calls for the Department to explore the creation of an EMS Bureau and since there is an existing EMS division, a Bureau is unnecessary.
- Some of the assessments that are requested are programs that we are currently studying and are in the process of seeking approval. We also report the EMT data requested in this bill quarterly as a part of LO 21-0015. Additionally, the FACETS report released last year covers many of the requests for data and it also highlights the fiscal and personnel constraints the Department would have with any new requests for analysis. The Department has an item going before the Board of Estimates (BOE) for FACETS to conduct three (3) additional studies related to Ordinances 21-035, 22-121 and 22-122. That study will cost the agency approximately \$548,000.
- In Section 1(a), the 150-day time frame for completion of a comprehensive report would be challenging, given the Department’s current administrative staffing constraints. While we believe most of the information requested has already been satisfied through other reporting, should this legislation move forward BCFD has a limited administrative staff, and creating this report would necessitate diverting some of those employees away from their regular duties to devote a significant amount of time to researching and drafting the required report. The Department believes additional resources may need to be added to BCFD administrative staff to facilitate meeting additional reporting requirements. Accordingly, the Department respectfully recommends an amendment to the Bill to allow the Department up to one (1) year to submit the required report.