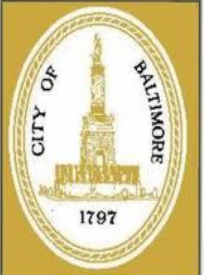


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jason W. Mitchell, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0085		

June 28, 2021

TO:

Economic and Community Development Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0085 introduced by President Mosby on behalf of the Administration (Baltimore City Fire Department).

The purpose of the Bill is to require that certain multi-line telephone systems allow for the direct dial of 9-1-1; define certain terms; authorize certain inspections; provide for certain fines; and generally relating to access to the City’s 9-1-1 emergency system.

The proposed legislation would add provisions to Chapters 1 and 9 of Part VIII {Fire Code} of the Building, Fire and Related Codes that would require multi-line telephone systems be installed such that a person does not have to dial any other number or set of numbers before dialing 9-1-1 for emergency services. The Bill would give the Fire Department the authority to inspect the installation and operation of multi-line telephone systems, as well as enforcement authority under Article 1 § 40-14(e) of the Baltimore City Code. The Maryland Public Safety Article requires each county to be responsible for the enforcement of Kari’s law. The Maryland law is based on a tragic event that occurred in Texas in 2013 that prevented a 9-year old from successfully calling 9-1-1 from a hotel room in an effort to get help for her mother who was being attacked, and who subsequently died of her injuries.

The Baltimore City Fire Department’s supporting response to this legislation underscores the importance of this Bill, and therefore, the Department of Public Works supports its passage.



Jason W. Mitchell
Acting Director