
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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August 25, 2021

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0107 – Study and Report – Operations of the Baltimore City Fire
Department

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0107 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would require that the Baltimore City Fire Department in consultation with certain other agencies, submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating departmental operations, fire suppression and EMS staffing, community risk reduction programs, and performance management programs and provide for a special effective date.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may “exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City,” and may “pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City.” City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47).

The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Ashlea Brown
Assistant Solicitor

cc:

Matt Stegman
Nina Themelis
Nikki Thompson
Elena DiPietro
Hilary Ruley
Victor Tervalá