


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0107 – Study and Report – Operations of the Baltimore City Fire Department		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

August 31, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0107, Study and Report – Operations of the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), the purpose of which is to require that BCFD, in consultation with other agencies, submit a report to the Mayor and City Council evaluating the departmental operations, fire suppression, and Emergency Medical Services staffing, community risk reduction programs, and performance management programs.

Background

This legislation requires that the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), in consultation with other agencies, conduct a study and submit a report that includes several components related to evaluating the departmental operations, fire suppression, and Emergency Medical Services staffing, community risk reduction programs, and performance management programs.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance does not anticipate a cost for the City as a result of this legislation, as the work will be completed internally by the named agencies. However, we defer to the BCFD in determining if additional resources will be needed. At the conclusion of the study and report, budget requests for additional funds to implement the recommendations of the study will need to be submitted and reviewed through the annual budget process.

Other Considerations

The Department of Finance’s Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) is specifically cited to be engaged in this study and report. While Finance and BBMR support the intent of this legislation and are eager to assess how the findings of this study can be utilized in budget planning and projections, the only role that BBMR could play in such a study is providing reports on historical budgets and positions. BBMR will provide what data is necessary from budget systems, but BCFD manages all current information regarding their internal practices. The Department of Finance defers to the technical expertise of the Baltimore City Fire Department on this legislation in their findings and stands ready to assist in the analysis outlined in this study and report.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this bill and respond to any fiscal inquiries.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0107.

cc: Henry Raymond

Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis