



March 12, 2024

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins
Council Administrator

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Acting Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin 
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: Roger G. Banegas 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CR-013-2024, 911 Charge

CR-013-2024 (*Proposed and introduced by:* The Chair of the Council at the request of the County Executive)

Assigned to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 911 CHARGE for the purpose of approving a one-cent increase in the additional charge for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, and other 911 accessible services within the County.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None likely.

Revenues: Increased annual revenue estimated at \$138,102.

Indirect Impact:

None likely.

Legislative Summary:

CR-013-2024, proposed by the Chair at the request of the County Executive, was introduced by Council Members Ivey, Harrison, Watson, and Fisher on February 27, 2024, and referred to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee. CR-013-2024 would increase the current additional charge of one dollar and forty cents (\$1.40) to one dollar and forty-one cents (\$1.41) per month to all current bills for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, or other 9-1-1 accessible service within the County in order to fully cover the County's 9-1-1 operating expense.

Current Law/Background:

In addition to the State 9-1-1 fee, the State's Public Safety Article, Section 1-311 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, allows the governing body of each county, to impose a county 9-1-1 fee to be added to all current bills rendered for 9-1-1-accessible service in the county. If revenues attributable to the county 9-1-1 fee for a fiscal year do not provide the revenues necessary to cover a county's operational costs for the system for that fiscal year, the county may, for the following fiscal year, impose a county 9-1-1 fee, sufficient to cover the County's project operational costs for the system.¹

The county 9-1-1 fees may not exceed the level necessary to cover the total eligible maintenance and operation costs of the county. After imposing, repealing, or modifying a county 9-1-1 fee, the county shall certify the amount of the county 9-1-1 fee to the Public Service Commission, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, and Comptroller no later than 60 days before the implementation of the change and after a public hearing.²

CR-64-2003, approving an increase in the additional charge for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, and other 9-1-1 accessible services within the County, was passed and became effective October 1, 2003. It increased the County's charge from \$0.50 to \$0.75 per month per bill for 9-1-1 service.³

CR-091-2022⁴, approving an increase in the additional charge for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, and other 9-1-1 accessible services within the County, was passed and became effective October 24, 2022. The Resolution was the first time the 9-1-1 fee was modified since CR-64-2003. CR-091-2022 increased the County's charge from seventy-five cents (\$0.75) to one dollar and forty cents (\$1.40) per month per bill for 9-1-1 service.

¹ [Maryland Code, Public Safety Article, Section 1-311](#)

² Id.

³ [LZIS – CR-063-2003](#)

⁴ [CR-091-2022](#)

Resource Personnel:

- David B. Juppe, Office of Management and Budget
- Stanley A. Earley, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

In FY 2021, the County completed an audit of revenue and expenditures associated with providing 9-1-1 services within the County. The audit indicated the County expenses exceeded 9-1-1 fee revenue by \$9.0 million. However, this does not reflect the additional revenue effective July 1, 2023, when the fee level was increased to \$1.40 per line. To recover the cost of service would require that the fee be raised by \$0.01 cent per line, to a revised total of \$1.41 per line. The resolution aims to cover the 2022 audit-identified gap that was \$9.0 million, which did not take the \$8.38 million that was to be generated by the increase made by CR-091-2022 from \$0.75 to \$1.40 into account.

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Adoption of CR-013-2024 will have a favorable direct fiscal impact of approximately \$138,102. Adoption would have a neutral impact on operations to the extent that the increased fee would cover the actual cost of operations associated with the County's 9-1-1 system.

Indirect Impact

Adoption of CR-013-2024 is not likely to have an indirect fiscal impact.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Resolution shall be effective April 1, 2024, after the requisite public hearing and notification to the appropriate agencies.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.