



March 19, 2024

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins
Council Administrator

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin 
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: David Williams 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-009-2024 Voluntary 9-1-1 Voluntary Emergency Registry

CB-009-2024 (*Proposed by:* Council Member Oriadha)

Assigned to the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety (HHSPS) Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING 9-1-1 VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY REGISTRY for the purpose of establishing the 9-1-1 Registry Program to alert certain first responders of certain behaviors, diagnoses, or traits of individuals with special needs that may be present during certain encounters with first responders.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact

Expenditures: Additional expenditures will be incurred for administrative costs.

Revenues: No anticipated revenue impact.

Indirect Impact

Likely favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CB-009-2024, proposed and sponsored by Council Members Oriadha and Olson, was presented on February 27, 2024, and referred to the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety (HHSPS) Committee. This bill would establish a 9-1-1 registry program to alert first responders to individuals with certain behaviors, diagnoses, and/or special needs that may be present during encounters with first responders.

Background/Current Law:

CB-009-2024 is the first law of its kind in Prince George's County. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), "voluntary registry systems enable law enforcement agencies to obtain critical information (prior to an actual emergency) that assists in response to calls for service involving an individual with Alzheimer's disease, [as well as] ASD, developmental disabilities, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), epilepsy, brain injury, mental illness, and other disabilities that may affect the way individuals interact and respond to law enforcement officers and other first responders."¹

Resource Personnel:

- Joel Peebles, Policy Director, Council District 7
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Discussion/Policy Analysis:

CB-009-2024 Specifics

CB-009-2024 would amend Subtitle 18. Police. Division 7. §18-187.01 through 18-187.02.

§16-187.01 This section defines the pertinent terms Department, First Responder, and Mobile Crisis Response.

§18-187.02 This section establishes a 9-1-1 Registry that enables an adult, parent/guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship of a person to provide information to the Prince George's County Police Department to alert first responders who may encounter the individual of

¹ [IACP "A Guide to Law Enforcement on Voluntary Registry Programs for Vulnerable Populations"](#)

any mental and/or physical health challenges that the individual may be facing. An individual will use a registration form provided by the Department. They will certify the information provided and contact the Department to update any information provided. Any individual that registers a person shall remain active unless they submit a voluntary withdrawal notification upon which the Department will have 30 days after receipt to delete the user's information. Registry users have no limit on the number of times they may register.

Policy Issues

The goal of this Bill is to enhance the service delivery of first responders and to reduce altercations involving citizens as well as the use of force incidents involving police and those who may suffer from afflictions caused by physical and/or mental health challenges. To achieve this goal, the bill would establish a flagging program through which individuals and/or their caretakers can voluntarily provide information to first responders about symptoms and behaviors that may present in a person with intellectual, developmental, physical, or mental disabilities. The program would be provided at no cost to registrants.

In its 2023 session, the General Assembly very nearly enacted HB1176,² which would have required counties to establish such a voluntary flagging system. Much of the text of CB-009-2024 mirrors the language in HB1176. Montgomery County is currently considering a bill³ very similar to the one before the Council. Howard County established its registry in 2012 without legislation.⁴⁵

In the above-referenced IACP guide, several benefits of flagging systems such as that would be created by CB-009-2024:

- Voluntary registry systems enhance community safety by providing timely information critical to locating wandering individuals quickly, efficiently, and safely.
- Information provided through voluntary registry systems helps promote officer safety and can reduce department and officer liability. Voluntary registry systems can reduce strain on department resources, particularly in times of crisis.
- Voluntary registry systems also provide peace of mind for caregivers and registrants in the community.
- Finally, police department representatives report that having a voluntary registry system in their community promotes partnerships.⁶

² [HB1176 \(2022\)](#)

³ [Montgomery County Council Bill 33-23](#)

⁴ [Howard County request form](#)

⁵ Autism Society of Maryland, "[911 Address Flagging Program](#)"

⁶ IACP Guide, *supra* note 3, pages 9-11

Fiscal Impact

- *Direct Impact*

The enactment of CB-009-2024 will likely have a limited adverse impact. The implementation of this program will require additional administrative expenditures for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of this registry. As of the date of this memorandum, Council staff has not received information from the Administration necessary to estimate what that impact be, however, the Montgomery County Council is considering virtually identical legislation, and the Fiscal Impact Statement supplied by their Office of Management and Budget anticipates the need for one additional full-time position; they estimate first-year costs of roughly \$330,000, with a continuing annual cost of just under \$200,000.⁷

- *Indirect Impact*

The enactment of CB-009-2024 may improve emergency service delivery and reduce the number of use-of-force incidents by briefing first responders on the condition of persons involved in calls for service before they arrive on the scene.

- *Appropriated in the Current Year Fiscal Year*

No

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The Act shall take effect forty-five (45) days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.

⁷ [Bill 33-23](#), see Committee Worksession Staff Report, pp. (17)-(18).