

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 22-020

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 22-021 Date September 6, 2022

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 28-1, Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program, Subsection B and Section 28-2, Service benefits, Subsection A, Subsection B and Subsection C of Article 1, Pensions, of Chapter 28, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to change the age of eligibility to receive benefits, and to adjust the benefit amount; and generally relating to Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Organizations.

By the Council, September 6, 2022

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled
on: October 4, 2022
at: 6:00 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

_____, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 28-
2 1, Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program, Subsection B and Section 28-2, Service
3 benefits, Subsection A, Subsection B and Subsection C of Article I, Pensions, of Chapter 28, Fire,
4 Ambulance and Rescue Organizations, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
5 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

6 **Chapter 28. Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Organizations**

7 **Article I. Pensions**

8 **§ 28-1. Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program.**

9 B. Any person who has served as a member of a County Volunteer Fire Department/Company
10 or ambulance corps and/or volunteer fire companies receiving contributions from the county
11 and has completed 5 continuous years of service shall be eligible to receive benefits
12 hereinafter set forth, provided that any person who completes 25 years of certified service
13 and has not attained the age of [55] 50 may be qualified. Each person will become eligible
14 for benefits upon reaching the age of [55] 50, provided that each person is certified as to the
15 25 years of qualified service prior to January 1, 1975. After January 1, 1975, a person must
16 accumulate the proper number of points needed to qualify. After a person is qualified and
17 certified, failure to remain active or to maintain membership in a Fire Department/Company
18 or ambulance corps will not disqualify or otherwise affect any person from receiving benefits
19 at the age of [55] 50.

20 **§ 28-2. Service benefits.**

21 A. Any person who has reached the age of [55] 50 and who has completed a minimum of 25
22 years of certified active volunteer service with any County Volunteer Fire
23 Department/Company or ambulance corps shall receive benefits in the amount of \$325.00
24 per month for life or in such an amount as set in the county budget as provided in § 28-4 of
25 this article. Payments shall begin on the first day of the month following eligibility. The

1 program shall be administered by the Director of Administration of the county, and these
2 payments shall be payable in the normal manner.

3 B. An additional payment of a minimum of \$6.00 per month or as provided in the county budget
4 pursuant to § 28-4 of this article shall be added to the benefits described in Subsection A of
5 this section for each full year of volunteer service in excess of 25 years, [provided that a
6 maximum benefit of \$475.00 per month] or such an amount as set in the county budget
7 pursuant to § 28-4 of this article or equivalent shall be payable to any individual.

8 C. Any person who has reached the age of [70] 60 years and who has completed 5 continuous
9 years of service with a minimum of 10 years of certified active volunteer service but fails to
10 achieve the required 25 years of service, the volunteer is entitled to a monthly benefit of the
11 number of years of certified service completed multiplied by \$13 or the amount as set in the
12 County Budget as provided in § 28-4 of this article. These benefits shall be payable in the
13 normal manner.

14 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the
15 date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

Mykia A. Dixon

Council Administrator