

# HOUSE BILL 1056

L2

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By: **Calvert County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County – Length of Service Award – Fire Fighters, Rescue Squad**  
3 **Members, and Rescue Dive Team Members – Increase Authorized**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Calvert County to enact  
5 a local law that increases the amount of benefits that a certain member of any  
6 Calvert County volunteer fire company, volunteer rescue squad, or rescue dive  
7 team is eligible to receive to a certain amount per month and increases the  
8 amount of an additional payment each month for each full year of volunteer  
9 service in excess of a certain number of years to a certain amount; repealing a  
10 provision setting a certain maximum benefit; and generally relating to the  
11 length of service award program for volunteer fire fighters, rescue squad  
12 members, and rescue dive team members in Calvert County.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 The Public Local Laws of Calvert County  
15 Section 14–102  
16 Article 5 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
17 (2002 Edition and July 2011 Supplement, as amended)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article 5 – Calvert County**

21 14–102.

22 (a) Any individual who has served as a member of any Calvert County  
23 volunteer fire company, Calvert County volunteer rescue squad, or Calvert County  
24 rescue dive team is eligible to receive the following benefits, provided that:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (1)    The individual is certified in accordance with the provisions of §  
2 14–101 of this subtitle to have served as an active volunteer subsequent to January 1,  
3 1986.

4           (2)    Any individual who discontinued active volunteer service prior to  
5 January 1, 1986, may receive credit for the service after being certified in accordance  
6 with the provisions of § 14–104(b) of this subtitle.

7           (b)    Beginning January 1, 1992, any individual who has reached the age of 55  
8 and who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service,  
9 with any Calvert County volunteer fire company, volunteer rescue squad, or rescue  
10 dive team or any combination of volunteer fire company service, volunteer rescue  
11 squad service, and rescue dive team, shall receive benefits in the amount of \$400 per  
12 month, for life. Payments shall begin on the first day of the first month following  
13 eligibility and payments shall be made directly to the volunteer entitled to the  
14 benefits.

15          (c)    An additional payment of \$4 per month shall be added to the benefits  
16 described in Subsection (b) of this section, for each full year of volunteer service in  
17 excess of 25 years[, providing that a maximum benefit of \$500 per month or equivalent  
18 shall be payable to any individual].

19           **(C–1) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION,**  
20 **THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ENACT A LOCAL LAW THAT INCREASES:**

21           **(1)    THE AMOUNT OF BENEFITS THAT A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER IS**  
22 **ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TO \$700 PER MONTH, FOR LIFE; AND**

23           **(2)    THE AMOUNT OF AN ADDITIONAL PAYMENT EACH MONTH FOR**  
24 **EACH FULL YEAR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN EXCESS OF 25 YEARS TO \$10 PER**  
25 **MONTH.**

26          (d)    In the event that any active volunteer becomes disabled during the course  
27 of the volunteer’s service as a volunteer fireman, rescue squad member, or rescue dive  
28 team member while actively engaged in providing the services and in the event that  
29 the disability prevents the volunteer from pursuing the normal occupation of the  
30 volunteer and that the disability is of a permanent nature, as certified by the State  
31 Workers’ Compensation Commission or other competent medical authority as  
32 designated by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, then the  
33 volunteer is entitled to receive the benefits prescribed in Subsection (b) and any other  
34 benefits the volunteer may be entitled to regardless of age or length of service. These  
35 benefits shall begin on the first day of the first month following the establishment of  
36 the permanency of the disability.

37          (e)    In the event that any qualified volunteer dies while receiving benefits,  
38 then the surviving spouse of the volunteer is entitled to benefits equal to 50% of the

1 volunteer's benefits. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the  
2 spouse.

3 (f) In the event that a volunteer who has completed 25 years of certified  
4 service dies prior to receiving any benefits under this section, the surviving spouse of  
5 the volunteer is entitled to benefits equal to 50% of the benefits earned by the  
6 deceased volunteer. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage.

7 (g) (1) In the event a qualified volunteer who has completed 25 years of  
8 certified service dies, a burial benefit up to \$6,000 shall be payable.

9 (2) In the event a volunteer who is receiving benefits under Subsection  
10 (h) of this section dies, a burial benefit up to \$240 for each year of certified service  
11 shall be payable.

12 (h) In the event that any active volunteer fireman, squad member, or rescue  
13 dive team member (defined as an individual who has at least two years of qualifying  
14 service in the five preceding years) attains the age of 70 years and fails to achieve the  
15 required 25 years of service, the volunteer is entitled to a monthly benefit of the  
16 number of years of certified service completed multiplied by \$8. These benefits shall be  
17 payable in the normal manner.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 June 1, 2014.