

## Chapter 556

**(Senate Bill 462)**

AN ACT concerning

**State Retirement and Pension System – Death Benefits for Children – ~~Age~~**

FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law related to the ~~age~~ time until which certain survivor benefits for surviving children of certain members of the State Retirement and Pension System are available; making corrective and technical changes; and generally relating to death benefits in the State Retirement and Pension System.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Personnel and Pensions

Section 21–401(a), 24–401.1(i), 26–401.1(i), 27–403(a)(2)(i), 27–404, 27–405, and 29–301(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

**Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

21–401.

(a) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, instead of the basic allowance provided under the State system of a member, the member may elect a reduced allowance to be paid as one of the options under § 21–403 of this subtitle.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection applies to a member of:

(i) the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System or State Police Retirement System only if, at retirement, the member does not have a spouse; and

(ii) the Judges’ Retirement System only if, at retirement, the member does not have a spouse or A child WHO IS under the age of [18] **26** years OR IS DISABLED.

24–401.1.

(i) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, on termination of a DROP member’s participation in the DROP, the Board of Trustees shall pay to the DROP member or, if the DROP member has died, the designated beneficiary of the DROP

member, the amount accrued in the DROP for the DROP member under subsection (h)(2) of this section, reduced by any withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority, in a lump sum.

(2) The designated beneficiary of a DROP member is:

(i) the DROP member's surviving spouse;

(ii) if there is not a surviving spouse or if the surviving spouse dies [before the youngest child is 18 years old], each child of the deceased DROP member who is under [18] **26** years old **OR IS DISABLED**; or

(iii) if there is not a surviving spouse or a child who is under [18] **26** years old **OR IS DISABLED**, the DROP member's designated beneficiary.

26-401.1.

(i) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, on termination of a DROP member's participation in the DROP, the Board of Trustees shall pay to the DROP member or, if the DROP member has died, the designated beneficiary of the DROP member, the amount accrued in the DROP for the DROP member under subsection (h)(2) of this section, reduced by any withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority, in a lump sum.

(2) The designated beneficiary of a DROP member is:

(i) the DROP member's surviving spouse;

(ii) if there is not a surviving spouse or if the surviving spouse dies [before the youngest child is 18 years old], each child of the deceased DROP member who is under [18] **26** years old **OR IS DISABLED**; or

(iii) if there is not a surviving spouse or a child who is under [18] **26** years old **OR IS DISABLED**, the DROP member's designated beneficiary.

27-403.

(a) (2) (i) If at the time of death the member does not have a surviving spouse OR A CHILD WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS OR IS DISABLED, the Board of Trustees shall pay to the member's designated beneficiary or beneficiaries a lump-sum death benefit consisting of the sum of:

1. the member's accumulated contributions; and

2. an amount equal to the member's annual salary at the time of death.

27-404.

Except for a retiree who elects an optional form of an allowance under §§ 21-401 and 21-402 of this article, payment of an allowance ends and further rights may not arise from service as a member if:

(1) a member, former member, or retiree dies; and

(2) (i) the member, former member, or retiree leaves no surviving spouse or children **WHO ARE** under the age of [18] **26** years **OR ARE DISABLED**;

(ii) the surviving spouse dies and there are no children of the member, former member, or retiree, who are under the age of [18] **26** years **OR ARE DISABLED**; or

(iii) the last of any children under the age of [18] **26** years **AND ARE NOT DISABLED** becomes [18] **26** years old or dies before becoming [18] **26** years old.

27-405.

If a member's service is terminated by death and the member leaves no spouse, child **WHO IS** under the age of [18] **26** years **OR IS DISABLED**, or designated beneficiary or beneficiaries, the member's accumulated contributions shall be paid to the member's estate.

29-301.

(d) A vested allowance:

(1) is computed as a retirement allowance under § 27-402 of this article on the basis of the former member's creditable service at the time of separation from employment; and

(2) may be paid in one of the optional forms of allowances under § 21-403 of this article, if at retirement, the member does not have a spouse or child **WHO IS** under the age of [18] **26** **OR IS DISABLED**.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.**