

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 660 (Charles County Delegation)  
Commerce and Government Matters

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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**Charles County - Length of Service Award Program - Benefits for Disability**

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This amended bill changes the disability benefit terms under the length of service award program for qualified active volunteer members of the Charles County Volunteer Fire Companies or Rescue Squads, as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County expenditures could increase by \$1,824 annually for each recipient of a disability benefit provided under the bill. No effect on local revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** None. This bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** The bill changes existing State law under the length of service award program for qualified active volunteer members of the Charles County Volunteer Fire Companies or Rescue Squads as follows:

- Under current law, a volunteer is entitled to a disability benefit if the volunteer becomes permanently disabled while actively engaged in providing volunteer services and the disability prevents the volunteer from pursuing the volunteer's normal occupation. Under the proposal, in addition to the current disability provision, a volunteer with 25 years of volunteer service is entitled to a disability benefit if the volunteer becomes permanently and totally disabled for any reason.

It is estimated that since the Length of Service Program's formation in 1974, there have been

only two incidents where a volunteer would have qualified for a benefit under the proposed legislation. It is estimated that such a benefit requires an expenditure by Charles County of \$152 per month, or \$1,824 per year. If it is assumed that the disability rate remains constant, then the proposed legislation would result in one additional disability benefit per every ten years. Assuming that one disability case occurred in fiscal 1998, Charles County expenditures for benefit payments would increase by \$1,824 in fiscal 1998, with such payments increasing or decreasing thereafter according to the Consumer Price Index.

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**Information Source(s):** Charles County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 14, 1997

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