

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 168

(Calvert County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Finance

Calvert County - Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services - Length of Service Award Program

This bill requires volunteer members of the fire and rescue services in Calvert County, who are prohibited from participating in duties that would otherwise earn “length of service” points because of a pending workers’ compensation claim, to receive service credit at the rate of six points for each month, provided that the member is subject to a Workers’ Compensation Commission order declaring that the member is temporarily totally disabled. The bill also sets a maximum of 60 points that can be credited in any calendar year while temporarily totally disabled.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Calvert County expenditures would increase minimally for length of service points awarded while volunteer members of the fire and rescue services are temporarily totally disabled.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Calvert County is not authorized to award length of service points to active volunteer fire and rescue members when an order from the Workers’ Compensation Commission declares that the member is temporarily totally disabled and is not authorized to participate in any other activity that could earn service points.

Background: The Length of Service Award Program in Calvert County is for qualified active volunteer members of the Calvert County volunteer fire companies and volunteer rescue squads. Any qualifying individual who has reached age 55 and has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service with any Calvert County volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad service receives monthly benefits for life. For example, a member who is at least age 55 with at least 25 years of service is entitled to a monthly benefit of \$400 for life. An additional \$4 per month is earned for each year of service in excess of 25 years. The maximum benefit is \$500 per month.

Calvert County advises that temporarily disabled members in the Length of Service Award Program are eligible to earn service points by attending training and participating in other nonemergency situations eligible for service credit unless completely prohibited from participation by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

Local Fiscal Effect: Calvert County's expenditures towards its length of service award program would increase to reflect the potentially expanded number of months eligible for length of service credits. The amount of such increase cannot be reliably determined at this time, but is expected to be minimal. Any additional expenditures pursuant to the bill would not be realized until a volunteer member who received points while temporarily totally disabled retires from service.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2003
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510