

HOUSE BILL 1495

E4

8lr3305

By: Cecil County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, February 29, 2008

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 29, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County – Volunteer Length of Service Award Program – Age of**
3 **Eligibility**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain members of volunteer fire departments, rescue
5 squads, and ambulance corps to receive certain benefits at a certain age under
6 the Volunteer Length of Service Award Program in Cecil County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Safety
9 Section 7–209
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2003 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 7–209.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) “Board” means the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil
18 County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (3) "Program" means the Volunteer Length of Service Award Program.

2 (b) In Cecil County, the Board may establish and fund a Volunteer Length of
3 Service Award Program for qualified members of volunteer fire departments, rescue
4 squads, and ambulance corps.

5 (c) (1) The Board may adopt bylaws for the Program by resolution.

6 (2) In the bylaws, the Board may:

7 (i) define terms;

8 (ii) establish eligibility requirements for certification procedures
9 based on length of service, number of hours of service, amount of training, number of
10 hours of training, prior service, or any other criteria considered relevant by the Board
11 based on requirements and procedures recommended by the Cecil County Fireman's
12 Association;

13 (iii) establish appeals procedures for members who contest
14 eligibility requirement determinations by the Board;

15 (iv) establish a benefits schedule and determine eligibility
16 requirements, including age and length of service requirements;

17 (v) delegate recordkeeping responsibilities of the Program to the
18 Program administrative committee of the Cecil County Fireman's Association;

19 (vi) delegate administration of the Program to the Cecil County
20 treasurer, a committee or board, an insurer, a financial institution, or any other
21 agency, group, or organization that the Board determines is competent to administer
22 the Program;

23 (vii) subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, establish
24 disability, death, and survivor benefits for qualified individuals;

25 (viii) establish any other requirements, criteria, or benefits
26 considered by the Board to be in the best interest of Cecil County and the best interest
27 of the volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance corps;

28 (ix) subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, allocate from the
29 general revenue of Cecil County or from any other source, funds for the Program; and

30 (x) establish any other provision for the administration of the
31 Program.

32 (3) A surviving spouse benefit is discontinued when the survivor
33 remarries.

1 (4) Funds for the Program allocated from the general revenue of Cecil
2 County may not exceed:

3 (i) \$35,000 during the first year of the Program;

4 (ii) \$39,000 during the second year of the Program;

5 (iii) \$44,000 during the third year of the Program;

6 (iv) \$49,000 during the fourth year of the Program;

7 (v) \$55,000 during the fifth year of the Program; and

8 (vi) an additional \$10,000 for each additional year of the
9 Program or whatever amount would make the Program actuarially sound by July 1,
10 2014.

11 (d) To carry out this section, the Board shall adopt the following provisions
12 as part of the Program:

13 (1) a member who has certified credit volunteer service on or after
14 January 1, 1979 or who discontinued active volunteer service before January 1, 1979
15 may receive credit for this service after being certified in accordance with this section
16 to have performed 5 years of active volunteer service after January 1, 1979;

17 (2) a member who has completed 25 years of certified volunteer service
18 and is under the age of 60 years may be qualified and will be eligible for benefits when
19 the member reaches the age of 60 years if the member is certified to the 25 years of
20 qualified service before January 1, 1984; [and]

21 (3) after January 1, 1984, **AND ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2008**, a
22 member who accumulates the proper number of points needed to qualify and certify
23 for 25 years of service and who fails to remain active or maintain membership in a
24 volunteer fire company is not disqualified or otherwise restricted from receiving
25 benefits at the age of 60 years[.]; **AND**

26 (4) **ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2008, A MEMBER WHO ACCUMULATES**
27 **THE PROPER NUMBER OF POINTS NEEDED TO QUALIFY AND CERTIFY FOR 25**
28 **YEARS OF SERVICE MAY RECEIVE BENEFITS AT THE AGE OF 55 YEARS.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 July 1, 2008.