

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1156 (Delegate Fisher)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Calvert County - Length of Service Award Program - Benefits

This bill alters the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) in Calvert County. The bill increases the death or burial benefit amount that specified Calvert County volunteer fire and rescue members are eligible to receive under certain circumstances. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Calvert County expenditures may increase by approximately \$16,000 annually beginning in FY 2027, as discussed below. Calvert County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: LOSAP in Calvert County is for qualified active volunteer members of the Calvert County volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services departments.

Under current law, if a qualified volunteer who has completed 25 years of certified service dies, the qualified volunteer will receive a death benefit up to \$10,000. *Under the bill*, if a qualified volunteer who has completed 25 years of certified service dies, the qualified volunteer will receive a death *or burial* benefit up to \$14,000.

If any active volunteer fireman, squad member, or rescue dive team member (defined as an individual who has at least two years of qualifying service in the five preceding years) reaches 70 years of age and fails to achieve the required 25 years of service, the individual is entitled to a monthly benefit of the number of years of certified service completed multiplied by \$8. *Under current law*, in the event of death, the individual is entitled to receive a burial benefit of \$336 for each year of certified service. *Under the bill*, in the event of a death, the burial *or death* benefit is \$560 for each year of certified service.

Local Expenditures: Based on the 10-year average rate of four deaths per year, Calvert County advises expenditures for death or burial benefits may increase \$16,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2027. This estimate does not reflect the impact of increasing the death and burial benefits for certain volunteer fireman, squad member, or rescue dive team members that have not reached 25 years of service, as specified.

According to the Calvert County fiscal 2025 audit report, the county contributed \$1.1 million dollars to LOSAP.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2026
jg/tso

Analysis by: Kayvon Samadani

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