HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 22-020

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Council Administrator

Date 12/11/22

BY THE COUNCIL

Passes: LSD 22-025

Failed of Passage: __________________

By Order

Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 12th day of October, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date 10/12/2022

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 22-020 having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on October 12, 2022.

EFFECTIVE: December 12, 2022
COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 22-020

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive and President Vincenti, Council Members Johnson, Giangiordano, Shrodes, Wagner and Beulah

Legislative Day No. 22-021 ___________________________ Date September 6, 2022 ______________________

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 28-1, Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program, Subsection B and Section 28-2, Service benefits, Subsection A, Subsection B and Subsection C of Article 1, Pensions, of Chapter 28, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to change the age of eligibility to receive benefits, and to adjust the benefit amount; and generally relating to Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Organizations.

By the Council, September 6, 2022 ________________

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled on: October 4, 2022 ______________
at: 6:00 PM __________________________

By Order: ________________________, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on October 4, 2022, and concluded on October 4, 2022.

___________________________, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.
Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 28-1, Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program, Subsection B and Section 28-2, Service benefits, Subsection A, Subsection B and Subsection C of Article I, Pensions, of Chapter 28, Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Organizations, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

Chapter 28. Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Organizations

Article I. Pensions

§ 28-1. Volunteer fire fighter length of service award program.

B. Any person who has served as a member of a County Volunteer Fire Department/Company or ambulance corps and/or volunteer fire companies receiving contributions from the county and has completed 5 continuous years of service shall be eligible to receive benefits hereinafter set forth, provided that any person who completes 25 years of certified service and has not attained the age of [55] 50 may be qualified. Each person will become eligible for benefits upon reaching the age of [55] 50, provided that each person is certified as to the 25 years of qualified service prior to January 1, 1975. After January 1, 1975, a person must accumulate the proper number of points needed to qualify. After a person is qualified and certified, failure to remain active or to maintain membership in a Fire Department/Company or ambulance corps will not disqualify or otherwise affect any person from receiving benefits at the age of [55] 50.

§ 28-2. Service benefits.

A. Any person who has reached the age of [55] 50 and who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service with any County Volunteer Fire Department/Company or ambulance corps shall receive benefits in the amount of $325.00 per month for life or in such an amount as set in the county budget as provided in § 28-4 of this article. Payments shall begin on the first day of the month following eligibility. The
program shall be administered by the Director of Administration of the county, and these
payments shall be payable in the normal manner.

B. An additional payment of a minimum of $6.00 per month or as provided in the county budget
pursuant to § 28-4 of this article shall be added to the benefits described in Subsection A of
this section for each full year of volunteer service in excess of 25 years, [provided that a
maximum benefit of $475.00 per month] or such an amount as set in the county budget
pursuant to § 28-4 of this article or equivalent shall be payable to any individual.

C. Any person who has reached the age of [70] 60 years and who has completed 5 continuous
years of service with a minimum of 10 years of certified active volunteer service but fails to
achieve the required 25 years of service, the volunteer is entitled to a monthly benefit of the
number of years of certified service completed multiplied by $13 or the amount as set in the
County Budget as provided in § 28-4 of this article. These benefits shall be payable in the
normal manner.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the
date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: December 12, 2022

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.

Mylene A. Dixon
Council Administrator