

compensation as a contribution to the pension fund established by the retirement plan, but any employee who shall have made such contributions and shall thereafter terminate his employment with the department, by reason of death or otherwise, whether or not he shall have then become entitled to other benefits under the retirement plan, shall be credited with not less than the amounts contributed by him into the pension fund, and the aggregate amounts thereof, together with such interest thereon as may be prescribed by the retirement plan, shall be refunded to such employee, his dependents, or his estate, as the case may be, and as may be provided by such retirement plan. Except with respect to the refund of contributions made by him into the pension fund as hereinbefore provided, no employee of the Fire Department shall have any vested interest in the pension fund in excess of such interest, if any, as may be prescribed by the retirement plan, and such plan may provide for the total or partial disqualification for benefits (other than such refund of contributions) in respect of any employee discharged for cause, or who shall terminate his services or die, before becoming entitled to a vested interest in such pension funds. Upon the establishment of the retirement plan, the Treasurer of the said Chevy Chase Fire Department, Inc., is authorized to expend such of the moneys received by him pursuant to this section, or any other available funds of the Fire Department, as may be required with respect to such plan. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to prohibit the Chevy Chase Fire Department, Inc., from qualifying under the provisions of any statute hereafter enacted pursuant to which the said Chevy Chase Fire Department, Inc., would otherwise be entitled to participate as an employing unit in any pension, retirement or other benefit plan established for the State of Maryland or the County of Montgomery. All provisions respecting the retirement plan contained in this section shall be applicable to the said Chevy Chase Fire Department, Inc., its successor or successors.

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, and having been passed by a ye and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 16, 1947.