

(5). Optional membership of certain officials.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this article, membership in the retirement system shall be optional with any class of elected officials, or with any class of officials appointed for fixed terms. Such elected or appointed officials now in office may become members of the Employees' Retirement System by making application for such membership within six months after July 1, [1955] 1956. All officials elected or appointed on or after July 1, [1955] 1956, may become members of the System upon making application therefor within six months after their election or appointment. All such officials shall be entitled to credit for prior service rendered by them to the State, including service rendered prior to the establishment of the Employees' Retirement System. If any such official is entitled to a pension under the provisions of any other law, such official shall be deemed to have waived the benefits thereof by accepting the payment of benefits under this Article.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1956.

Approved March 26, 1956.

CHAPTER 102

(House Bill 27)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 159 of Article 81 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Revenue and Taxes", sub-title "Special Taxes", sub-heading "Inheritance Tax", changing the method of valuation of certain interests less than absolute for the purposes of the State inheritance tax.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 159 of Article 81 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Revenue and Taxes", sub-title "Special Taxes", sub-heading "Inheritance Tax", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

159. Whenever any life-estate, or interest for a term of years or other interest less than an absolute interest, in trust or otherwise, shall pass to a person, and a contingent or remainder or reversionary interest shall pass to another person, the Orphans' Court of the County or City in which administration is granted, or any other Court having jurisdiction over the administration or distribution of such property, shall determine, before any distribution thereof shall be authorized, the value of the life-estate, or interest for a term of years, or other interest less than an absolute interest, in accordance with [Table A or B, whichever is applicable, of Section 81.10 of Regulations 105, relating to the Federal Estate Tax under the

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.