

eral", amending the laws concerning optional allowances under the State Employees' Retirement System and relating generally to the choice of optional allowances by members of that System and the choice of a death benefit in lieu of a retirement allowance computed like an optional benefit by the spouse of a member of that System.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 11(9) of Article 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Pensions", sub-title "In General", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

11.

(9) Death benefit.—Upon the receipt of proper proofs of the death of a member in service, *and provided that no benefit is payable under the provisions of Section 11(11)(b) of this Article*, there shall be paid to such person as [he] *the member* shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the board of trustees, otherwise to his estate:

(a) [His] *The member's* accumulated contributions; and

(b) If the member has one or more years of creditable service, an amount equal to fifty percentum of [his] *the member's* average final compensation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That Section 11(11) of Article 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1959 Supplement), title "Pensions", sub-title "In General", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

11.

(11) Optional allowances.—(a) In lieu of the disability or service allowances payable under the aforesaid provisions, any member may, prior to the first retirement allowance payment normally due, elect a retirement allowance of equivalent actuarial value in one of the optional forms set out below. The election of the option shall be made on a form provided for that purpose and shall be filed with the board of trustees. Should a member die prior to the expiration of thirty days after the date of the filing of such election or prior to thirty days after retirement, such election shall be void and of no effect, and the benefits payable on his account shall be the same as though his election had not been filed and he had died in active service. A member who has elected an optional benefit may change such election by due notice to the board of trustees, but no change may be made after the first payment of his allowance becomes normally due.

Option 1. If the member dies before he has received in annuity payments the present value of his annuity as it was at the time of his retirement, the balance shall be paid to such person, if any, as he shall nominate by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the board of trustees, otherwise to his estate; or

Option 2. Upon his death, his reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to such person as he