

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

for administrative disability retirements; to clarify eligibility of members with regard to benefit improvements; to provide clarification of voluntary adjustment of pension payments regarding coordination of County pension and Social Security payments; to provide for optional form of payment for certain Group D retirees; to redefine the basis for percentage of vesting in normal retirement pension and to provide the formula for computing such vested benefits; to provide a monthly retirement benefit for elected or appointed official members who are eligible to receive vested benefits; to clarify existing provisions regarding vesting eligibility of members who transfer service credits from another retirement system; to resolve inequities in the discontinued service pension formula; to provide a minimum monthly discontinued service benefit for elected and appointed members; to improve benefits on a variable basis to spouses and children of members whose death is service connected and to provide for an annual adjustment of these benefits according to the Consumer Price Index; to provide for cost-of-living adjustment for widows of certain Group D retirees; to correct an oversight in which payments to surviving eligible children were not provided in the event of the death of a parent receiving benefits as the spouse of a member whose death occurred after elective early retirement date; to provide administrative procedures regarding hearings, findings, waiver of hearing requirements, and decisions of the Retirement Hearing Board; to provide payment for professional witnesses in hearings before the Retirement Hearing Board; to clarify the chargeability of witness fees; to provide for appeals to the County Personnel Board on the decision of the Retirement Hearing Board regarding disability retirement applications; to provide for interim payment of benefits for disability retirement pending decision on an appeal; to define the terms "County employee member", "Discontinued Service", "Actual Service", "Continuous Service" and "Normal Working Time", and to redefine the definitions of "Employee", "County service", "Regular Earnings" or "Earnings", and "Average Final Earnings".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, That,

SECTION I. Section 35 is hereby amended to read and added to as follows:

Employee - any eligible elected or appointed official and any full-time or qualified part-time employee of Montgomery County, a participating agency or political subdivision.