department, office or agency of the County Government, any appointing authority, the County Council or any member thereof, the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, or the electorate of Montgomery County, such member may elect, in lieu of the return of member contributions with credited interest, to receive a retirement benefit indicated below, commencing at the member's elective early retirement date, or immediately if eligible for early retirement.

- (1) If the member has at least ten years of continuous service, the pension shall equal two percent of final earnings multiplied by years of credited service, up to a maximum of thirty—six years plus sick leave credits.
- (2) If the member has at least twenty years of continuous service, the pension shall equal two percent of final earnings multiplied by years of credited service up to a maximum of thirty—six years plus sick leave credits or fifty percent of his final earnings, whichever is greater.

Years of credited service of less than a full year will be pro rated; any credited service in excess of fifteen days shall be equal to one month and any service of less than fifteen days shall not be counted.

Notwithstanding the above provision, ten or more years of credited service may be substituted by any member appointed on or before April 1, 1970, for the ten or more years of continuous service requirement.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, any member covered by this plan on April 30, 1970, and continuously employed thereafter, will be eligible to receive a pension commencing immediately.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, any County employee member qualifying for a discontinued service pension under Section (c) (1) hereinabove is not eligible to receive such pension payments until that date which would have been the member's early retirement date had the member remained continuously in the County service.

If the employment or the tenure of a member, otherwise qualified for a discontinued service pension, is terminated for reasons not specifically stated herein which the member believes to be of questionable validity and intended to circumvent the provisions of this section or other applicable provisions of this law, the member may appeal to the County Personnel Board for a ruling on the member's eligibility to receive a discontinued service pension. The decision of the County Personnel