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(a) Whenever any of the employees of the Department of Maryland State Police, who have elected not to become members of the State Police Retirement System of the State of Maryland, and any of the license examiners of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall have given meritorious service as an employee for a period of fifteen continuous years, and shall have reached the age of 55 years, excepting the physician of the Department who shall have reached the age of 65 years, the employees shall be eligible for retirement forthwith upon his or her voluntary application or may be retired by the Superintendent of the Department of Maryland State Police. These employees shall retire forthwith upon reaching the age of 64, excepting the physician of the Department who shall be retired forthwith upon reaching the age of 70. In all retirements under the provisions of this section the employee in question shall be paid during the remainder of his or her natural life a salary or pension, payable monthly, equal to fifty percent (50%) of his or her annual remuneration, the annual remuneration to be taken as of the year immediately preceding the granting of his or her application for retirement; provided, however, that any employee who is retired and is receiving retirement benefits under the provisions of this section and § 31A and such benefits in the aggregate are less than \$200.00 per month, shall receive an additional sum so that the amount received as benefit is in no event less than \$200.00. Any employee who is retired and who is receiving retirement benefits under the provisions of this section and is also receiving benefits from the federal old age and survivors insurance system, when the benefits in the aggregate are less than \$200.00 per month shall receive an additional sum equal to the difference. No money payable under this subtitle shall, prior to issuance and delivery of the warrant or voucher therefor, be capable of being assigned, charged or taken in execution or attachment. All employees subject to the provisions of this subtitle shall contribute to the pension fund, hereinafter provided for, a sum equal to the contribution which the employees would have paid to the State Police Retirement System for all benefits thereunder had they elected to become members thereof. The amount of the contribution of each of the employees subject to the provisions of this subtitle shall be fixed annually in advance by the board of trustees of the retirement and pension system of the Maryland State Police and shall be deducted monthly from the remuneration of the employees and paid in lieu thereof to the board to be placed by it forthwith in the pension fund. [The fund shall also consist of all fines imposed upon members of the Maryland State Police by way of discipline, donations, all lost, abandoned, unclaimed or stolen money, which may remain in the possession of the Department for the space of three years