

Sheriff's department which shall include the sheriff and each sworn employee of the Sheriff's department who is actively engaged in law enforcement. The pension plan shall provide eligibility for retirement after [thirty (30)] 30 years of active service regardless of age, and for early retirement after [twenty (20)] 20 years of active service reduced by [two per centum (2%)] 2.5 PERCENT for each year less than [thirty (30)] 30. Retirement income shall be [seventy per centum (70%)] 75 PERCENT of final average earnings (base salary) for the three years preceding retirement, with a minimum of [twenty (20)] 20 years and [fifty per centum (50%)] 50 PERCENT of the annual earnings and less [three quarters (3/4)] THREE-FOURTHS of social security benefits paid. The plan shall be retroactive to include any living person who is working in law enforcement at the time of the effective date of this act or who has been engaged in law enforcement within the department, and shall apply back to the date of that employment. The plan shall contain disability provisions and death benefits for spouse and/or minor children. Employee's contribution shall not exceed [seven per centum (7%)] 7 PERCENT on the first \$9,000 of annual earnings plus [ten per centum (10%)] 10 PERCENT on annual earnings in excess of \$9,000. There shall be a cost of living adjustment and a provision for a cash refund of contributions, plus interest for persons terminating employment. This pension plan shall become effective on or before July 1, 1973.

(B) (1) IN CHARLES COUNTY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL ESTABLISH A SEPARATE PENSION PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. THE PLAN MAY INCLUDE THE SHERIFF AND SWORN EMPLOYEES OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WHO ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(2) THE PENSION PLAN SHALL PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE REGARDLESS OF AGE, AND FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AFTER 25 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE REDUCED BY 2.5 PERCENT FOR EACH YEAR LESS THAN 30. RETIREMENT INCOME SHALL BE 75 PERCENT OF FINAL AVERAGE EARNINGS (BASE SALARY) FOR THE 3 YEARS PRECEDING RETIREMENT, WITH A MINIMUM OF 25 YEARS AND 62.5 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL EARNINGS AND LESS THREE-FOURTHS OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID.

(3) THE PLAN SHALL BE RETROACTIVE IN THAT IT MAY INCLUDE ANY LIVING PERSON WHO IS WORKING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON JULY 1, 1986, AND SHALL APPLY BACK TO THE DATE OF THAT EMPLOYMENT.

(4) THE PLAN SHALL CONTAIN DISABILITY PROVISIONS AND DEATH BENEFITS FOR SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN.

(5) EMPLOYEE'S CONTRIBUTION MAY NOT EXCEED 7 PERCENT ON THE FIRST \$9,000[.] OF ANNUAL EARNINGS PLUS 10 PERCENT ON ANNUAL EARNINGS IN EXCESS OF \$9,000.