

relating to disability benefits under the Charles County Length of Service Award Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 The Public Local Laws of Charles County  
 Section 54-9 and 54-10A.(1)  
 Article 9 - Public Local Laws of Maryland  
 (1994 Edition and November 1995 Supplement, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 9 - Charles County**

54-9.

A. Any person who has served as a member of any Charles County Volunteer Fire Company or Charles County Volunteer Rescue Squad is eligible to receive the benefits set forth in this Article if the person is certified in accordance with the provisions of § 54-11 to have served as an active volunteer subsequent to December 31, 1973. Any person who discontinued active volunteer service prior to January 1, 1974, may receive credit for the service after being certified in accordance with the provisions of § 54-11.

B. Beginning January 1, 1974, any person who has reached the age of sixty (60) years and who has completed a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of certified active volunteer service with any Charles County Volunteer Fire Company or Volunteer Rescue Squad, or combination thereof, shall receive benefits in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.) per month for life. Payments shall begin on the first day of the first month following eligibility. The program shall be administered by the County Commissioners of Charles County, and payment shall be made directly to the volunteer entitled to such benefits. Beginning July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, this amount shall be increased or decreased by an amount equal to the annual increase or decrease as reflected by the consumer price index, using the published May figure each year. This amount shall not exceed a four-percent increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative.

C. An additional payment of two dollars (\$2.) per month shall be added to the benefits described in Subsection B of this section for each full year of volunteer service in excess of twenty-five (25) years. Beginning July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, this amount shall be increased or decreased by an amount equal to the annual increase or decrease as reflected by the consumer price index, using the published May figure each year. This amount shall not exceed a four-percent increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative. Beginning July 1, 1990, the amount payable monthly for each year in excess of twenty-five (25) years shall be equal to four percent (4%) of the amount payable under Subsection B of this section.

D. In the event that any active volunteer becomes ~~TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY~~ disabled ~~AT ANY TIME AND FOR ANY REASON~~ during the course of service as a volunteer fireman or rescue squadman ~~while actively engaged in providing such services~~ and in the event that the disability prevents the volunteer from pursuing ~~the volunteer's normal~~ ~~ANY MEANINGFUL~~ occupation and that the disability is of a