

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

**Article 25 - County Commissioners**

3.

[(g-2) In Kent County the Board of County Commissioners shall establish a pension plan for the Kent County Sheriff's department which shall include the Sheriff and each employee actively engaged in law enforcement. The plan shall provide eligibility for retirement after 30 years' service regardless of age, and for early retirement after 20 years' active service. Retirement income shall be 70 percent of average earnings over the final three years' employment, reduced by 2 percent of this average for every year of active service less than 30, less three quarters the amount 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 minor children. Employee's contribution shall not exceed 7 percent on the first \$9,000 of annual earnings plus 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 January 1, 1978.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 3(g-3) through (g-5), respectively, of Article 25 - County Commissioners of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 3(g-2) through (g-4), respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

2-309.

(p) (1) The Sheriff of Kent County shall receive a salary of:

(I) ~~[\$40,000]~~ \$45,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2003;

(II) \$46,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2004;

(III) \$47,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2005; AND

(IV) \$48,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2006 AND EACH CALENDAR YEAR THEREAFTER.

(2) [and, at] AT the discretion of the County Commissioners, THE SHERIFF SHALL RECEIVE county-owned automobiles as may be necessary to operate the Sheriff's department.

(3) The Sheriff shall appoint a chief deputy sheriff who shall receive a salary of at least \$8,000.