

program qualifying service and is carried on current membership rosters and does not qualify for death benefits as provided in Subsection H of this section, a death benefit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.) shall be paid to the unqualified volunteer's designated beneficiary.

K. When receipts of funds from § 54-1 D(3) exceed the costs of the benefits described IN Subsections A through J of this section, the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners may utilize the excess funds to provide additional benefits to those persons eligible to receive benefits under this section.

L. Beginning in July 1999, a member who is at least fifty-five (55) years old and has completed a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of qualifying service, may elect to receive an early length of service program award benefit equal to 75% of the benefit that person would have received at the age of sixty (60) years. That member's credit for additional years of service shall equal 75% of the benefit awarded to a member who begins benefits at the age of sixty (60) years. The election of early length of service award program benefits shall be a final choice of benefits by the member.

54-10.

A. (1) Commencing July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, a [copy] COST of living review shall be made by the County Commissioners to adjust the benefits provided under § 54-9 B, C, D, E, F, G, H, [and] I, J, AND L of this Article. The adjustment shall increase or decrease the benefits according to an amount equal to the annual increase or decrease as reflected by the current May consumer price index, but shall not exceed a four-percent increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative. Revised or reviewed benefits shall commence on October 1 of the year.

(2) Any benefit adjustment made under this section shall be applied only prospectively.

B. It is the responsibility of each participating volunteer fire company, [or rescue squad] VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, VOLUNTEER MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, OR VOLUNTEER DIVE RESCUE UNIT to maintain detailed and accurate records of each volunteer member on forms prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc., and approved by the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners.

C. (1) [Beginning January 15, 1975] EACH JANUARY 15, and each January 15 thereafter, the Board of Directors of each volunteer fire company, [or rescue squad] VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, VOLUNTEER mobile intensive care unit, OR VOLUNTEER DIVE RESCUE UNIT shall furnish to the Executive Committee of the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc., a statement under oath certifying all volunteers of the DEPARTMENT, company [or], squad, OR UNIT who have qualified for credit for the previous year. Each statement shall contain all members' ages, [and] previous credits earned, and other information as may be required by the Executive Committee.

(2) Upon receipt of this statement, the Executive Committee of the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc., shall review the list of each company OR UNIT and furnish a copy thereof to the Board of Fire and Rescue