

31-116.

(a) On or before December 31, [1999] 2002, a participating governmental unit may elect to provide its employees with the contributory pension benefit under Title 23 of this article as provided in this section by submitting its election on a form provided by the State Retirement Agency.

(b) (1) If a participating governmental unit elects to provide its employees with the contributory pension benefit under Title 23 of this article, an employee of the participating governmental unit who is a member of the Employees' Pension System shall be entitled to the benefits as provided in § 23-218 of this article, effective on the later of July 1, 1998, or the date the employee became a member of the Employees' Pension System, unless the employee transferred to the Employees' Pension System after April 1, 1998.

(2) If an employee of a participating governmental unit transferred to the Employees' Pension System after April 1, 1998, the employee is not subject to Title 23, Subtitle 2, Part II of this article and is not entitled to the benefits as provided in § 23-218 of this article.

(c) An election by a participating governmental unit under this section is irrevocable.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

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## CHAPTER 342

(Senate Bill 899)

AN ACT concerning

### Prince George's Hospital System Improvement Task Force

FOR the purpose of establishing the Prince George's Hospital System Improvement Task Force; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint the chairman of the Task Force; providing for staffing for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation while authorizing members of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations about certain issues; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to certain parties on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; providing that if certain entities are subject to acquisition before a certain date, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene may require a certain grant to become payable to the State; authorizing the Secretary to require execution of a certain instrument as a condition of disbursement of certain funds; providing that if certain entities are subject to a bankruptcy proceeding, a certain grant may not be considered an asset of certain entities and the