

(c) If the member fails to make the payment as provided under subsection (b) of this section, the Board of Trustees shall reduce actuarially the allowance payable to a former member, retiree, or surviving beneficiary of a deceased member, former member, or retiree.

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 ~~October~~ July 1, 2002.

May 16, 2002

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1296 - Maryland Veterans Commission - Membership.

This bill requires that one of the appointed members of the Maryland Veterans Commission be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and repeals the requirement that a member be appointed from the Veterans of World War I.

Senate Bill 666, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 1296.

Sincerely,