

[(d)](E) "Law enforcement officer" means an individual certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission as a law enforcement officer.

[(e)](F) (1) "Local pension system" means a retirement or pension system of an eligible governmental unit.

(2) "Local pension system" includes the Employees' Retirement System and the Employees' Pension System if the eligible governmental unit participates under Subtitle 1 of this title.

31-2A-03.

(A) If at least 60% of the law enforcement officers of an eligible governmental unit who are members of a local pension system petition to become members of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System, the legislative body of the eligible governmental unit may approve the participation of these law enforcement officers in the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System as though the local pension system were not in operation.

(B) IF AT LEAST 60% OF THE FIREFIGHTERS OF AN ELIGIBLE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT WHO ARE MEMBERS OF A LOCAL PENSION SYSTEM PETITION TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' SYSTEM, THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE ELIGIBLE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF THESE FIREFIGHTERS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' SYSTEM AS THOUGH THE LOCAL PENSION SYSTEM WERE NOT IN OPERATION.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2005.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2004.

Approved May 26, 2004.

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**CHAPTER 533**

**(House Bill 1068)**

AN ACT concerning

**Academic Facilities Bonding Authority**

FOR the purpose of increasing the bonding authority for the University System of Maryland; providing that there are no filing requirements for any resolution or trust agreement, except in the records of a system; approving certain projects for the acquisition, development, and improvement of certain academic facilities for the University System of Maryland; approving the issuance of bonds by the University System of Maryland for financing the projects.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education