

(2) Any individual who discontinued active volunteer service prior to January 1, 1986 may receive credit for the service after being certified in accordance with the provisions of § 14-104(b) of this subtitle.

(b) Beginning January 1, [1986] 1992, any individual who has reached the age of 55 and who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service, with any Calvert County volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad or any combination of volunteer fire company service and volunteer rescue squad service, shall receive benefits in the amount of [§275] \$400 per month, for life. Payments shall begin on the first day of the first month following eligibility and payments shall be made directly to the volunteer entitled to the benefits.

(c) An additional payment of \$4 per month shall be added to the benefits described in subsection (b) of this section, for each full year of volunteer service in excess of 25 years, providing that a maximum benefit of [§375] \$500 per month or equivalent shall be payable to any individual.

(d) In the event that any active volunteer becomes disabled during the course of the volunteer's service as a volunteer fireman or rescue squad member while actively engaged in providing the services and in the event that the disability prevents the volunteer from pursuing the normal occupation of the volunteer and that the disability is of a permanent nature, as certified by the Maryland Workmen's Compensation Commission or other competent medical authority as designated by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, then the volunteer is entitled to receive the benefits prescribed in subsection (b) and any other benefits the volunteer may be entitled to regardless of age or length of service. These benefits shall begin on the first day of the first month following the establishment of the permanency of the disability.

(e) In the event that any qualified volunteer dies while receiving benefits, then the surviving spouse of the volunteer is entitled to benefits equal to 50 percent of the volunteer's benefits. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the spouse.

(f) In the event that a qualified volunteer dies prior to receiving any benefits under this section, the surviving spouse of the qualified volunteer is entitled to benefits equal to 50 percent of the benefits earned by the deceased volunteer. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage. A qualified volunteer is an individual who has completed 25 years of certified service.

(g) In the event that a qualified volunteer dies, a burial benefit up to \$3,000 shall be payable.

(h) In the event that any active volunteer fireman or squad member (defined as an individual who has at least two years of qualifying service in the five preceding years) attains the age of 70 years and fails to achieve the required 25 years of service, the volunteer is entitled to a monthly benefit of the number of years of certified service completed multiplied by \$8. These benefits shall be payable in the normal manner.