

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 73B - Pensions

Municipal Corporation Law Enforcement Officers' AND FIRE FIGHTERS' Pension System

157A.

(a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (I) "FIRE FIGHTER" MEANS A PAID FIRE FIGHTER OR PARAMEDIC, AS DETERMINED BY THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

(II) "FIRE FIGHTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER.

[(2)] (3) "Law enforcement officer" means a person certified by the Maryland Police Training Commissioner as a law enforcement officer.

[(3)] (4) (i) "Local pension system" means a retirement or pension system of a municipal corporation at the time of election by the municipal corporation to participate in this pension system.

(ii) "Local pension system" includes the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Maryland and the Pension System for Employees of the State of Maryland if the municipal corporation participates under §§ 163 through 170 of this article.

[(4)] (5) "Municipal corporation" means a county or municipal corporation as defined in Article 23A, § 9 of the Code.

(b) (1) On or after July 1, 1989, if a municipal corporation elects to participate in this pension system in accordance with § 157C(a) of this subtitle, any person who becomes a municipal corporation law enforcement officer OR FIRE FIGHTER of the municipal corporation after the municipal corporation begins to participate in this system shall become a member of this pension system as a condition of employment.

(2) Membership in this pension system shall be optional for any person employed as a municipal corporation law enforcement officer OR FIRE FIGHTER on the date any municipal corporation begins to participate in this system.

157D.

(a) (1) (I) If 60 percent of the law enforcement officers of a municipal corporation who are members of a local pension system elect to become members of this pension system by a petition signed by the law enforcement officers, the participation by these law enforcement officers may be approved by the legislative body of the municipal corporation as though the local pension system were not in operation and this subtitle shall apply.