

This loss of highly trained, key public servants -- especially in the technical and professional fields -- will create numerous administrative problems, will increase training costs, and may leave State government in disarray.

Language included in the Budget Bill has given me the option to veto House Bill 1567 and to abolish 600 positions pursuant to a schedule adopted by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning. Despite the fact that State government has already gone through significant downsizing, I feel the latter option is the more acceptable alternative. It will allow me to make position reductions in those areas of State service that will be least adversely impacted. I will be able to identify specific jobs that should be eliminated, create long-term salary savings, and avoid overburdening the pension and retirement funds.

For these reasons, I have today vetoed House Bill 1567.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

House Bill No. 1567

AN ACT concerning

Retirement and Pensions – ~~State Employees~~ – ~~Early Retirement~~ Retirement Allowances

FOR the purpose of permitting certain State employee members of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Maryland or the Pension System for Employees of the State of Maryland to retire ~~early during a certain period of time~~ after a certain number of years with a service retirement allowance under certain circumstances; prohibiting a member of one of the State retirement or pension systems from receiving an allowance that exceeds a certain amount; authorizing the Board of Trustees for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems to adopt certain regulations; providing for the benefits on early retirement under this Act; altering the conditions under which a member who retires under this Act may become reemployed by certain employers; providing for the funding of certain retirement and pension costs under this Act; requiring on or before a certain date certain State officials, in consultation with certain appointing authorities, to eliminate a certain percentage of certain positions in the State budget; prohibiting an appointing authority from filling certain positions; requiring that certain appropriations be reduced by certain amounts; requiring that certain salary savings that result from this Act be transferred to certain funds; permitting the State Retirement Agency to take a certain number of additional days to process certain retirement applications without affecting an applicant's right to a benefit; requiring the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning and the State Retirement Agency to submit before a certain date a certain report to the General Assembly; and generally relating to the ~~early retirement of certain State employees~~ retirement of members of the State retirement and pension systems.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 73B – Pensions