

(i) ~~Eighteen years of age or under; or~~

(ii) ~~Over eighteen years of age and incapable of self support because of physical or mental disability.~~

(4) "Correctional officer" means a member of a correctional unit who is responsible for the investigation, care, custody, control, or supervision of persons confined to places of incarceration.

(5) "Correctional unit" means any State or county governmental organization which has by statute, ordinance, or court order the responsibility for the care, control, and supervision of inmates in correctional institutions for persons declared to be parolees or for persons placed on probation or suspension of sentence.

(6) "PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES" INCLUDES, IN THE CASE OF A VOLUNTEER OR CAREER FIREFIGHTER OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER:

(I) ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN FIGHTING A FIRE OR WHILE GOING TO OR FROM A FIRE;

(II) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES NECESSARY TO THE OPERATION OR MAINTENANCE OF THE FIRE COMPANY;

(III) ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE AMBULANCE, ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT, OR RESCUE WORK OF A FIRE, AMBULANCE, OR RESCUE COMPANY OR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT UNIT, INCLUDING GOING TO OR FROM THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY OR RESCUE; AND

(IV) PROVIDING EMERGENCY OR RESCUE ASSISTANCE, WHETHER ACTING ALONE OR AT THE DIRECTION OF OR WITH A FIRE, AMBULANCE, OR RESCUE COMPANY OR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT UNIT.

[(6)] (7) "Stepchild" means a child of the surviving spouse who was living with or dependent for support on the decedent at the time of his death.

[(7)] (8) "State Fire Marshal" means any sworn member of the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office.

(b) (1) (I) A death benefit shall be paid to the surviving spouse, children, [or] dependent parents, OR ESTATE of any law enforcement officer of the State or of any political subdivision of the State, any sheriff or deputy sheriff, any correctional officer, any volunteer or [professional] CAREER firefighter or rescue squad member or any State Fire Marshal, who is killed or dies in the performance of duties on or after July 1, 1989.

(II) The amount of the benefit shall be \$50,000.

(III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEATH BENEFIT PROVIDED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE ADJUSTED BY THE CHANGE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR PRECEDING THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL URBAN CUSTOMERS - UNITED STATES CITY AVERAGE - ALL ITEMS) AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.