

35-702.

AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE AS DEFINED IN § 32-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 3. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans shall may negotiate separately with the administrator of the Supplemental Retirement Plans a contract for the administration of a plan that is qualified under § 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code for the contributions made under the Optional Defined Contribution System established under this Act; and

(b) the current contract between the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans and the administrator of the Supplemental Retirement Plans shall terminate on June 30, 2000 and a new contract that will apply to existing Supplemental Retirement Plans as well as any plans established under this Act shall be subject to renegotiation in accordance with Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

SECTION 4. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Retirement Agency and the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans shall coordinate efforts to inform members of the Employees' Pension System and the Teachers' Pension System about the elections that the members are entitled to make under this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for Fiscal Year 1999, the Governor may use existing appropriations in the State budget and transfer funds as needed to implement the provisions of this Act. To the extent necessary, the Governor may request additional funds for Fiscal Year 1999 in the budget submitted to the General Assembly at the 1999 legislative session.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System modify the actuarial assumptions of the State systems in a manner consistent with sound actuarial principles and independent of any increase in accrued liability under this Act.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before December 15, 1998, the Joint Committee on Pensions, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System and the State Board of Trustees of the Maryland Teachers and State Employees Supplemental Retirement Plans shall conduct a study and prepare a report on:

(1) the feasibility of creating a stand-alone defined contribution plan for State employees and teachers as a portable alternative to the defined benefit plan under the Employees' Pension System;