

Expedited Bill No. 12-17
Concerning: Fire and Rescue Services –
Length of Service Awards Program for
Volunteers - Amendments
Revised: May 17, 2017 Draft No. 2
Introduced: May 2, 2017
Enacted: June 13, 2017
Executive: June 26, 2017
Effective: July 1, 2017/January 1, 2018
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 16, Laws of Mont. Co. 2017

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the request of the County Executive

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) increase the amount of the length of service benefit to certain local fire and rescue department volunteers;
- (2) require benefits to be paid through direct deposit;
- (3) modify the requirements to earn credit for stand-by duty; and
- (4) generally amend the length of service award program for volunteers.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 21, Fire and Rescue Services
Section 21-21

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 21-21 is amended as follows:**

2 **21-21. Length of service award program for volunteers.**

3 * * *

4 (c) *Length of service benefits.*

5 (1) Volunteers Who Qualified Before 1985. Effective January 1,
6 1985, any volunteer who qualified for a monthly award payment
7 before January 1, 1985, must receive monthly award payments
8 equal to 150 percent of the pre-1985 monthly award payment.

9 (2) Volunteers Who Qualify in 1985 or Later - 25 Years of Service.

10 (A) Effective January 1, 1985, a volunteer qualifies for a 25-
11 year award payment when the volunteer:

12 (i) is at least age 55, if the volunteer completed 25
13 years as an active volunteer before 1996, or

14 (ii) is any age, if the volunteer completed 25 years as an
15 active volunteer on or after January 1, 2004.

16 (B) A volunteer who qualifies under this paragraph must
17 receive an award payment of:

18 (i) \$233 [\$230] per month for life; and

19 (ii) \$11.70 [\$11.50] per month for life for each year of
20 service as an active volunteer over 25 years (up to
21 \$117 [\$115] per month). The maximum total
22 benefit is \$350 [\$345] per month.

23 (3) Volunteers Who Qualify in 1985 or Later - 15 years of Service.

24 (A) Effective January 1, 1985, a volunteer qualifies for a 15-
25 year award payment when the volunteer:

26 (i) has served 15 years as an active volunteer after
27 January 1, 1955; and

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(ii) is at least age 60.

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(B) A volunteer who qualifies under this paragraph must receive an award payment of \$9.32 [\$9.20] per month for life for each year of service as an active volunteer.

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(4) Volunteers Who Qualify in 1985 or Later - 10 Years of Service.

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(A) Effective January 1, 1985, a volunteer qualifies for a 10-year award payment when the volunteer:

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(i) has served 10 years as an active volunteer; and

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(ii) is at least age 65.

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(B) A volunteer who qualifies under this paragraph must receive an award payment of \$9.32 [\$9.20] per month for life for each year of service as an active volunteer.

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~~[(C)]~~ (5) All years of service, including past years of service, must be included.

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~~[(5)]~~ (6) A volunteer must receive a 3.5% increase, for a maximum total benefit of no more than \$362.00 per month, to his or her LOSAP benefit payment if he or she:

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(A) received LOSAP benefit payments as of December 31, 2015; and

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(B) qualified for the higher nominal fee, as described in Article 12 of the fire and rescue volunteers collective bargaining agreement, for calendar year 2015 by:

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(i) being on the Integrated Emergency Command Structure (IECS) certified list;

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(ii) receiving 30 LOSAP points for department or station responses; and

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54 (iii) receiving 20 LOSAP points for sleep-in or stand-by
55 service.

56 * * *

57 (i) *Administration.*

58 (1) The County Executive or the Executive's designee must
59 administer this Section under Executive Regulations adopted
60 under method (3).

61 (2) The County must pay benefits under this section from the first
62 day of the first month after the volunteer, surviving spouse or
63 domestic partner, or volunteer's estate qualifies for the benefit,
64 except that benefits must not be paid for any period before the
65 application for the benefit is filed.

66 * * *

67 ~~[(3)]~~ (5) All LOSAP payments must be made by direct deposit.

68 * * *

69 (k) *Point System.*

70 * * *

71 (3) [Sleep-in or] Stand-by - 20 points maximum. [Sleep-in
72 service earns 1 point for each full night. Stand-by service
73 earns 1 point for each period of on-duty activity of the fire
74 department or rescue squad that lasts for at least 4 hours
75 and does not fall under another category in this
76 subsection.] Integrated Emergency Command Structure
77 (IECS) certified personnel may earn stand-by LOSAP
78 points for performing on-duty activity at the rate of:

79 (A) one quarter point for every hour of stand-by service
80 a volunteer is assigned to a unit available for
81 response; and


82 (B) one point for every 4 hours of stand-by service the
83 volunteer is available for response in the station, but
84 not assigned to a specific unit.

85 Stand-by service must be recorded in the data system
86 provided by the County. A volunteer must not earn more
87 than 3 points for stand-by service during any 24-hour
88 period.

89 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.**

90 The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate
91 protection of the public interest. The amendments in Section 1, except for the
92 amendments to subsection (k), take effect on July 1, 2017. The amendments to
93 subsection (k) in Section 1 take effect on January 1, 2018.

94 *Approved:*

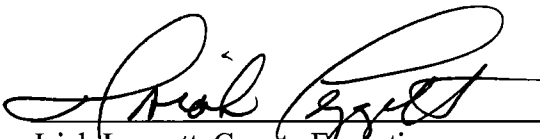
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Roger Benjamin, President, County Council

6/15/17

Date

96 *Approved:*

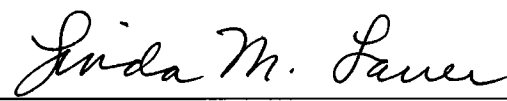
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Isiah Leggett, County Executive

June 24, 2017

Date

98 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

June 27, 2017

Date