

Expedited Bill No. 12-21  
Concerning: Personnel - Employees'  
Retirement System - Retirement  
Savings Plan-Group Trust -  
Amendments  
Revised: 3/9/2021 Draft No. 3  
Introduced: March 22, 2021  
Enacted: June 29, 2021  
Executive: July 9, 2021  
Effective: July 9, 2021  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. 16, Laws of Mont. Co. 2021

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

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**AN EXPEDITED ACT** to:

- (1) increase the mandatory required distribution age by which benefits must begin as permitted by a recent change to federal law;
- (2) change the timing of distributions of benefits for beneficiaries as required by a recent change to federal law;
- (3) change the submission timing of a beneficiary form for a GRIP, EOP or RSP participant;
- (4) permit the suspension of required minimum distributions for 2020 from the Retirement Savings Plan and Elected Officials' Plan as permitted by recent federal law;
- (5) clarify the process for escheatment for certain distributions to participants in the Retirement Savings Plan, GRIP, or Elected Officials' Plan when a participant or beneficiary cannot be located, or the participant or beneficiary has not accepted the distribution;
- (6) clarify operations of the Group Trust;
- (7) permit unitization of the Employees' Retirement System held within the Group Trust to provide an investment option for defined contribution participants; and
- (8) generally amend the retirement laws.

By amending

Montgomery County Code

Chapter 33, Personnel and Human Resources

Sections 33-44, 33-46, 33-52, 33-60, 33-120, 33-125, 33-127, 33-145, 33-162 and 33-170

<b>Boldface</b>	<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. Sections 33-44, 33-46, 33-52, 33-60, 33-120, 33-125, 33-127, 33-145,**  
2 **33-162 and 33-170 are amended as follows:**

3 **33-44. Pension payment options and cost-of-living adjustments.**

4   \*           \*           \*

5           (f) *Distributions from the elected officials' plan.* The chief administrative  
6 officer must pay an elected officials' participant's account balances in  
7 the elected officials' plan upon normal retirement or withdrawal of  
8 vested county contributions under the provisions of this subsection.

9           (1) Normal Method of Distribution. Unless the elected officials'  
10 participant elects an option under paragraph (2), the normal  
11 method of distribution must be a variable annuity that reflects  
12 investment gains and must be paid for the elected officials'  
13 participant's life.

14           (2) Optional Methods of Distribution. An elected officials'  
15 participant may choose to have the account balances paid to that  
16 elected officials' participant in one of the following optional  
17 methods:

18   \*           \*           \*

19           (F) Payment of the account balances of the elected official  
20 participant in the form of as nearly equal periodic  
21 payments as the market will allow, over a period not  
22 exceeding the lesser of the joint life expectancy of the  
23 elected officials' participant and the elected officials'  
24 participant's beneficiary or twenty (20) years.  
25 Notwithstanding the preceding, payments must comply  
26 with the requirements of Internal Revenue Code Section

27                                    401(a)(9), as amended, and the corresponding Treasury  
 28                                    Regulations.

29                                    \*       \*       \*

30            (h)    (1)    *Required commencement of benefit payments from the elected*  
 31                                    *officials' plan.* The distribution of an elected officials'  
 32                                    participant's retirement benefits must be made no later than April  
 33                                    1 of the calendar year following the later of the calendar year in  
 34                                    which the elected officials' participant attains age [seventy and  
 35                                    one-half (70 ½)] 72 or the calendar year in which the elected  
 36                                    officials' participant retires. In the alternative, the payment of  
 37                                    benefits to an elected officials' participant must begin not later  
 38                                    than such April 1 under a method of payment that, in accordance  
 39                                    with the applicable United States Treasury Regulations, provides  
 40                                    for distribution of the elected officials' participant's benefits over:

- 41                                    (A)    The life of the elected official's participant;  
 42                                    (B)    The lives of the elected officials' participant and the  
 43                                    elected officials' participant's designated beneficiary;  
 44                                    (C)    A period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the  
 45                                    elected officials' participant; or  
 46                                    (D)    A period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the  
 47                                    elected officials' participant and the elected officials'  
 48                                    participant's designated beneficiary.

49                                    (2)    Notwithstanding any other provision, an elected official's  
 50                                    account balance of \$1,000 or less must be automatically  
 51                                    distributed in a lump sum as soon as administratively feasible  
 52                                    after termination of employment without a request from the

53 elected official. If the distribution cannot be made because the  
 54 elected official cannot be located, the elected official will forfeit  
 55 the amount. If the elected official later contacts the County, the  
 56 elected official will receive the forfeited amount.

57 (3) Notwithstanding this subsection, an elected officials' participant or  
 58 beneficiary who would have been required to receive a minimum  
 59 required distribution for 2020 but for the enactment of Internal  
 60 Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9)(I), must receive those  
 61 distributions for 2020 unless the participant or beneficiary elects  
 62 not to receive such distributions.

63 (i) *Period for distribution of death benefits of a retired elected officials'*  
 64 *participant who [was receiving] elected to receive benefits in the form*  
 65 *of an annuity. Any death benefits must be paid to a joint annuitant or*  
 66 *beneficiary under the terms of the annuity elected. [If the distribution*  
 67 *to a retired elected officials' participant has commenced in accordance*  
 68 *with the second sentence of subsection 33-44(h) and the elected*  
 69 *officials' participant dies before the elected officials' participant's entire*  
 70 *benefit has been distributed to that elected official's participant, the*  
 71 *remaining part of such benefit must be distributed at least as rapidly as*  
 72 *under the method of distribution in effect as of the date of the retired*  
 73 *elected officials' participant's death.]*

74 (j) *Period for distribution of death benefits of an elected officials'*  
 75 *participant who was not receiving benefits or who was receiving*  
 76 *benefits in the form other than an annuity.*

77 [(1) If an elected officials' participant dies before the payment of the  
 78 benefits under the elected officials' plan has commenced, the b]

79 Benefits must be distributed before the end of the calendar year  
 80 containing the fifth anniversary of the elected official  
 81 participant's death; however, the five-year rule does not apply  
 82 [if]:

83 [(A)] (1) [Any] If any portion of the elected officials' participant's  
 84 benefit is payable to, or for the benefit of, [a] an individual  
 85 designated as a beneficiary, the benefits must be distributed by  
 86 the end of the calendar year containing the tenth anniversary of  
 87 the elected officials' participant's death.[:]

88 [(B)] (2) [The portion of the benefit to which the designated beneficiary  
 89 is entitled will be distributed over the life of the beneficiary, or  
 90 over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the  
 91 beneficiary; and] If any portion of the elected officials'  
 92 participant's benefit is payable to, or for the benefit of, an eligible  
 93 designated beneficiary as defined in Internal Revenue Code  
 94 Section 401(a)(9)(E)(ii), benefits are payable as follows:

95 [(C)] (A) The distributions must commence before the end of the  
 96 calendar year following the calendar year in which the  
 97 elected official's participant's death occurred. [Also, the  
 98 five-year rule does not apply if:]

99 [(i)](B)The portion of the elected officials' participant's benefit  
 100 to which the [surviving spouse] eligible designated  
 101 beneficiary is entitled must be distributed over the life of  
 102 the [surviving spouse] eligible designated beneficiary, or  
 103 over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of

104 the [surviving spouse] eligible designated beneficiary. [;  
105 and]

106 [(ii)](C) If the eligible designated beneficiary is a surviving  
107 spouse, [The] the distributions may instead commence  
108 before the later of the end of the calendar year following  
109 the calendar year in which the participant died or the end  
110 of the calendar year in which the elected officials'  
111 participant would have attained age [70 ½] 72.

112 [(2) For purposes of subsections (f), (h), (i), and (j), the life  
113 expectancy of an elected officials' participant and the elected  
114 officials' participant's spouse may be recalculated each year.  
115 Also, for purposes of subsections (f), (h), (i), and (j), any amount  
116 paid to a]

117 (D) If the eligible designated beneficiary is a child who has not  
118 reached majority, the benefit must be paid within 10 years  
119 [child must be treated as if it had been paid to the surviving  
120 spouse of an elected officials' participant if the amount  
121 becomes payable to the surviving spouse of an elected  
122 officials' participant] of the date when the child reaches the  
123 age of majority (or other designated event permitted under  
124 applicable Treasury Regulations).

125 (k) *Required commencement of benefit payments for members of the*  
126 *optional or integrated plans*. The distribution of a member's retirement  
127 benefit must be made, or must begin, no later than April 1 of the  
128 calendar year following the later of the calendar year in which the  
129 member attains age [seventy and one-half (70 1/2)] 72 or the calendar

130 year in which the member retires. [In the alternative, the payment of  
 131 benefits to a member must begin not later than such April 1 in  
 132 accordance with applicable United States Treasury Regulations over:

- 133 (1) The life of the member;
- 134 (2) The lives of the member and the member's designated  
 135 beneficiary;
- 136 (3) A period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the  
 137 member; or
- 138 (4) A period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the member  
 139 and the member's designated beneficiary.]

140 (l) *Period for distribution of death benefits of a retired member of the*  
 141 *optional or integrated plan who was receiving benefits[.] in the form of*  
 142 *an annuity. Any death benefits must be paid to a joint annuitant or*  
 143 *beneficiary under the terms of the annuity elected. [If the distribution*  
 144 *to a retired member has commenced in accordance with the second*  
 145 *sentence of subsection 33-44 (k) and the member dies before the*  
 146 *member's entire benefit has been distributed to the member, the*  
 147 *remaining part of such benefit must be distributed at least as rapidly as*  
 148 *under the method of distribution in effect as of the date of the retired*  
 149 *member's death.]*

150 (m) *Period for distribution of death benefits of a member of the optional or*  
 151 *integrated plan who was not receiving benefits and the death benefit is*  
 152 *a return of member contributions with credited interest.*

153 [(1)] [If a member dies before the payment of the benefit has  
 154 commenced, the] The benefit must be distributed before the end



- 155 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the  
156 member's death. [; however, the five-year rule does not apply if:
- 157 (A) Any portion of the member's benefit is payable to, or for  
158 the benefit of, a designated beneficiary;
- 159 (B) The portion of the benefit to which the designated  
160 beneficiary is entitled will be distributed over the life of  
161 the beneficiary, or over a period not extending beyond the  
162 life expectancy of the beneficiary; and
- 163 (C) The distributions commence before the end of the calendar  
164 year following the calendar year in which the elected  
165 official's participant's death occurred.]
- 166 [(2) Also, the five-year rule does not apply if:
- 167 (A) The portion of the member's benefit to which the surviving  
168 spouse is entitled will be distributed over the life of the  
169 surviving spouse, or over a period not extending beyond  
170 the life expectancy of the surviving spouse; and
- 171 (B) The distributions commence before the later of the  
172 end of the calendar year following the calendar year  
173 in which the participant died or the end of the  
174 calendar year in which the member would have  
175 attained age 70 ½.]
- 176 [(3) For purposes of this subsection, the life expectancy of a member  
177 and the member's spouse may be recalculated each year. Also,  
178 for purposes of this subsection, any amount paid to a child must  
179 be treated as if it had been paid to the surviving spouse of a  
180 member if the amount becomes payable to the surviving spouse

181 of a member when the child reaches the age of majority (or other  
182 designated event permitted under applicable treasury  
183 regulations).]

184 (n) *Required distribution for guaranteed retirement income plan*  
185 *participants.*

186 (1) The distribution of a participant’s guaranteed retirement income  
187 plan account balance must be made no later than April 1 of the  
188 calendar year after the later of the calendar year in which the  
189 participant attains age [70 ½] 72 or the calendar year in which  
190 the participant terminates employment. Distributions must be  
191 made in accordance with subsection (g). If the participant does  
192 not elect a form of distribution, the distribution must be made in  
193 a lump sum. If the participant dies before beginning to receive  
194 benefits, the participant’s designated beneficiary under 33-46(h)  
195 must receive a lump sum distribution as soon as practicable after  
196 the participant’s death, but not later than the December 31st of  
197 the year containing the fifth anniversary of the participant’s  
198 death.

199 (2) A participant’s account balance of \$1,000 or less must be  
200 automatically distributed in a lump sum as soon as  
201 administratively feasible after termination of employment  
202 without a request from the participant.

203 \* \* \*

204 **33-46. Death benefits and designation of beneficiaries.**

205 \* \* \*

206 (g) *Elected officials plan.* If an elected officials' participant dies before the  
207 County has implemented the method of distribution of benefits to the  
208 elected officials participant under a method of distribution designated  
209 in Section 33-44, the elected officials' participant's vested County  
210 elected officials' contributions account balance, including picked-up  
211 contributions, and the amounts distributable under Section 33-39(c)(2)  
212 from the elected officials' plan, must be distributed to the elected  
213 officials' participant's designated beneficiary. A beneficiary may  
214 choose to have benefits distributed in any method listed in Section 33-  
215 44(f)(2). If the beneficiary does not choose a method of distribution, the  
216 method of distribution must be a variable annuity that reflects  
217 investment gains and is payable for the beneficiary's life. The County  
218 Executive may provide by regulation adopted under method (3) a  
219 procedure for a beneficiary to choose a method of distribution.

220 (1) A participant may name a primary beneficiary or beneficiaries  
221 and contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries on a designation of  
222 beneficiary form filed with the Office of Human Resources, or  
223 designee of the Chief Administrative Officer, including a third  
224 party service provider. If a participant names 2 or more persons  
225 as beneficiaries, the persons are considered co-beneficiaries and  
226 share the benefit equally unless the participant specifies  
227 otherwise on the designation of beneficiary form. A participant  
228 may change any named beneficiary by completing a new  
229 designation of beneficiary form. The consent of the beneficiary  
230 or beneficiaries is not required to name or change a beneficiary.  
231 The designation is effective if the form is received by the Office

232 or the designee of the Chief Administrative Officer, including a  
 233 third party service provider, during the participant's lifetime.

234 (2) If a participant dies without designating a surviving beneficiary  
 235 or the designation is not enforceable under subsection (i), the  
 236 surviving spouse or domestic partner (or if there is no surviving  
 237 spouse or domestic partner, each surviving child, sharing equally  
 238 with any other surviving child) is the designated beneficiary. If  
 239 no spouse, domestic partner, or child survives a participant who  
 240 left no enforceable beneficiary designation, the participant's  
 241 estate is the designated beneficiary.

242 (h) *Guaranteed retirement income plan.* Subsections (a)-(g) do not apply  
 243 to the guaranteed retirement income plan. If a participant dies before  
 244 receiving the participant's guaranteed retirement income plan account,  
 245 the guaranteed retirement income plan account balance must be  
 246 distributed to the participant's designated beneficiary in a lump sum as  
 247 soon as practicable after the participant's death, but not later than the  
 248 December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year containing the fifth anniversary of the  
 249 participant's death.

250 (1) A participant may name a primary beneficiary or beneficiaries  
 251 and contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries on a designation of  
 252 [beneficiaries] beneficiary form filed with the Office of Human  
 253 Resources, or designee of the Chief Administrative Officer,  
 254 including a third party service provider. If a participant names 2  
 255 or more persons as beneficiaries, the persons are considered co-  
 256 beneficiaries and share the benefit equally unless the participant  
 257 specifies otherwise on the designation of [beneficiaries]

258 beneficiary form. A participant may change any named  
259 beneficiary by completing a new designation of [beneficiaries]  
260 beneficiary form. The consent of the beneficiary or beneficiaries  
261 is not required to name or change a beneficiary. The designation  
262 is effective [when the participant signs the form even if the  
263 participant is not living when the Office, or designee of the Chief  
264 Administrative Officer, receives the request, but without  
265 prejudice for any payments made before the Office, or the  
266 designee of the Chief Administrative Officer, received the  
267 request] if the form is received by the Office or the designee of  
268 the Chief Administrative Officer, including a third party service  
269 provider, during a participant's lifetime.

270 (2) If a participant dies without designating a surviving beneficiary  
271 or the designation is not enforceable under subsection (i), the  
272 surviving spouse or domestic partner (or if there is no surviving  
273 spouse or domestic partner, each surviving child, sharing equally  
274 with any other surviving child) is the designated beneficiary. If  
275 no spouse, domestic partner, or child survives a participant who  
276 left no enforceable beneficiary designation, the participant's  
277 estate is the designated beneficiary.

278 (i) For purposes of this Section, a beneficiary designation is "not  
279 enforceable" if:

280 (1) the designated beneficiary:

281 (A) predeceases the member;

282 (B) disclaims the benefit; or

283 (C) is not an identifiable person; or

284 (2) the designation is legally void for any reason.

285 **33-52. Payment of benefits.**

286 \* \* \*

287 (f) Lost Participants in the Elected Officials' Plan or Guaranteed  
288 Retirement Income Plan. The Chief Administrative Officer must use all  
289 reasonable resources to locate or communicate with a former participant  
290 or a beneficiary in order to make and process required minimum  
291 distributions as required by Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9). If  
292 such efforts fail, the Chief Administrative Officer, or a third party holding  
293 these amounts, must distribute the former participant's or beneficiary's  
294 unprocessed required minimum distributions to the State under the  
295 unclaimed property laws. No amounts will be due to a former participant  
296 or beneficiary once paid to the State. The former participant or  
297 beneficiary must claim the distributed amounts directly from the State.

298 **33-60. The board of investment trustees - Powers and duties.**

299 \* \* \*

300 (d) *Trustee powers.* Subject to the limitations under subsection (a)(2) of  
301 this section, the board has the power to:

302 \* \* \*

303 (16) Pool all or any of the assets of the trust, from time to time, with  
304 assets belonging to any other retirement plan trust or retiree health  
305 benefit trust created by the County, including any subtrust thereof,  
306 and commingle such assets and make joint or common investments  
307 and carry joint accounts on behalf of this trust [and], such other  
308 trust or trusts, or subtrusts, allocating undivided shares or interests  
309 in such investments or accounts or in any pooled assets to the two

310 or more trusts or subtrusts in accordance with their respective  
 311 interests. Any such trusts or subtrusts may be unitized for  
 312 investment purposes. Consistent with its investment authority in  
 313 this Article, the Board or its delegate may also buy or sell any  
 314 assets or undivided interests in this trust or in any other trust with  
 315 which the assets of this trust may be pooled, to or from this trust or  
 316 such other trusts at such prices or valuations as the Board or its  
 317 delegate may determine in reasonable good faith. For the  
 318 avoidance of doubt, the Board must determine that it is consistent  
 319 with its fiduciary duties to participate in a pooled investment that  
 320 permits the sale or purchase of its units as an investment option  
 321 under another retirement plan or retiree health benefit trust created  
 322 by the County.

323 \* \* \*

324 (e) *Prohibited transactions.* The board must not engage in any transaction  
 325 between the trust and the county, or any entity controlled by the county,  
 326 in which the board:

327 \* \* \*

328 (4) Makes any substantial purchase of securities or other property for  
 329 more than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt,  
 330 does not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in  
 331 Section 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a  
 332 subtrust;

333 (5) Sells any substantial part of its securities or other property for less  
 334 than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt, does

335 not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in Section  
 336 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a subtrust; or

337 \* \* \*

338

339 **33-120. Distribution of Benefit.**

340 \* \* \*

341 (c) *Death benefits.*

342 \* \* \*

343 (3) A participant may name a primary beneficiary or beneficiaries  
 344 and contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries on a designation of  
 345 [beneficiaries] beneficiary form filed with the Office of Human  
 346 Resources, or designee of the Chief Administrative Officer,  
 347 including a third party service provider. If a participant names 2  
 348 or more persons as beneficiaries, the persons are considered co-  
 349 beneficiaries and share the benefit equally unless the participant  
 350 specifies otherwise on the designation of [beneficiaries]  
 351 beneficiary form. A participant may change any named  
 352 beneficiary by completing a new designation of [beneficiaries]  
 353 beneficiary form. The consent of the beneficiary or beneficiaries  
 354 is not required to name or change a beneficiary. The designation  
 355 is effective [when the participant signs the form even if the  
 356 participant is not alive when the Office, or designee of the Chief  
 357 Administrative Officer, receives the request, but without  
 358 prejudice for any payments made before the Office, or designee  
 359 of the Chief Administrative Officer, received the request] if  
 360 received by the Office or the designee of the Chief



361 Administrative Officer, including a third party service provider,  
 362 during a participant's lifetime.

363 (4) If a participant dies without designating a surviving beneficiary  
 364 or the designation is not enforceable under subsection (5), the  
 365 surviving spouse or domestic partner (or if there is no surviving  
 366 spouse or domestic partner, each surviving child, sharing equally  
 367 with any other surviving child) is the designated beneficiary. If  
 368 no spouse, domestic partner, or child survives a participant who  
 369 left no enforceable beneficiary designation, the participant's  
 370 estate is the designated beneficiary.

371 (5) For purposes of this Section, a beneficiary designation is not  
 372 enforceable if:

373 (A) the designated beneficiary:

374 (i) predeceases the member;

375 (ii) disclaims the benefit; or

376 (iii) is not an identifiable person; or

377 (B) the designation is legally void for any reason.

378 \* \* \*

379 (h) *Benefit distribution date.*

380 (1) The Chief Administrative Officer must pay a participant who  
 381 retires by reason of normal, deferred, or disability retirement the  
 382 participant's account balances in the retirement savings plan.  
 383 The distribution must begin as soon as administratively feasible  
 384 after the participant's retirement and after the date elected by the  
 385 participant, but no later than April 1 following the later of the  
 386 calendar year in which the participant attains age [70 ½] 72, or

387 the calendar year in which the participant's County employment  
388 ends.

389 (2) A participant who has a 100% vested interest in the County  
390 contributions account, and whose County employment ends  
391 before the participant's death, disability retirement, or normal  
392 retirement date, may receive the account balances in the County  
393 contribution accounts and the participant contribution accounts  
394 before reaching the normal retirement date only upon filing  
395 written consent for the distribution with the Chief Administrative  
396 Officer. The distribution must be made as soon as  
397 administratively feasible after the Chief Administrative Officer  
398 receives the written consent for the distribution.

399 (3) (A) If a participant's County employment ends before the  
400 participant has a vested interest in the County  
401 contributions and the participant properly completes and  
402 submits an application for distribution of the participant's  
403 contribution account, the County must distribute the  
404 participant's contribution account as soon as  
405 administratively feasible.

406 (B) If a participant does not properly complete and submit an  
407 application for a distribution, the County must distribute  
408 the participant's contribution account under the time limits  
409 described in this Section.

410 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a  
411 participant's account balance of \$1000 or less must be  
412 automatically distributed in a lump sum as soon as

413 administratively feasible after termination of employment  
 414 without a request from the participant.

415 (i) *Required commencement of benefit payments.*

416 (1) The distribution of a participant's or former participant's  
 417 retirement benefits must begin no later than April 1 following the  
 418 later of:

419 (A) the calendar year in which the participant attains age [70  
 420  $\frac{1}{2}$ ] 72; or

421 (B) the calendar year in which the participant separates from  
 422 County service.

423 (2) The distribution may be made as provided in subsection (f).

424 (j) [Period for distribution of death benefits of a retired participant who  
 425 was receiving benefits. If distribution to a retired participant has begun  
 426 under subsection (i) and the participant dies before the participant's  
 427 entire benefit has been distributed to the participant, the remaining  
 428 benefit, if any, must be distributed at least as rapidly as under the  
 429 method of distribution in effect on the date of the retired participant's  
 430 death.]

431 Notwithstanding the preceding subsections, a participant or beneficiary  
 432 who would have been required to receive minimum required distributions  
 433 for 2020 but for the enactment of Internal Revenue Code Section  
 434 401(a)(9)(I), must receive those distributions for 2020 unless the  
 435 participant or beneficiary elects not to receive such distributions.

436 (k) *Period for distribution of death benefits of a participant who was not*  
 437 *receiving benefits or did not receive the entire benefit.*

438 [(1)] If a participant dies before payment of all benefits [under this  
439 Section has begun], the benefits must be distributed before the end of  
440 the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the participant's  
441 death unless:

442 [(A)](1) [(i)] any portion of the participant's benefit is payable to,  
443 or for the benefit of, [a] an individual designated by the  
444 participant as a beneficiary. [;] In such case, the benefits must be  
445 distributed by the end of the calendar year containing the tenth  
446 anniversary of the participant's death;

447 (2) any portion of the participant's benefit payable to, or for the  
448 benefit of, an eligible designated beneficiary as defined in  
449 Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9)(E)(ii). In such a case:

450 [(ii)](A) the portion of the benefit to which the eligible  
451 designated beneficiary is entitled will be distributed over  
452 the life of the eligible designated beneficiary or over a  
453 period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the  
454 eligible designated beneficiary; and

455 [(iii)] (B) the distributions begin before the end of the calendar  
456 year following the calendar year in which the participant's  
457 death occurred; or

458 [(B)](3) [(i)] (A) if the eligible designated beneficiary is a  
459 surviving spouse, the portion of the participant's  
460 benefit to which the surviving spouse is entitled will  
461 be distributed over the life of the surviving spouse,  
462 or over a period not extending beyond the life  
463 expectancy of the surviving spouse; and

464 [(ii)] (B) the distributions begin before the later of the  
 465 end of the calendar year following the calendar year  
 466 in which the participant died or the end of the  
 467 calendar year in which the participant would have  
 468 reached age [70 ½] 72.

469 [(2) For purposes of this Section:

470 (A) the life expectancy of a participant and the participant's  
 471 spouse may be recalculated each year; and

472 (B) any amount paid to a child is treated as if it had been paid  
 473 to the participant's surviving spouse if the amount is  
 474 payable to the surviving spouse before]

475 (4) If the eligible designated beneficiary is a child who has not  
 476 reached majority, the benefit must be paid within 10 years of the  
 477 child [reaches] reaching the age of majority or other designated  
 478 event permitted under federal regulation.

479 \* \* \*

480 **33-125. Powers and duties of the Board.**

481 (a) *General.*

482 \* \* \*

483 (2) The Board must invest and reinvest, or cause to be invested or  
 484 reinvested, the principal and income of the retirement savings  
 485 plan and keep the same invested without distinction between  
 486 principal and income. The Board has the exclusive authority to  
 487 manage the assets of the retirement savings plan, but must, to the  
 488 extent directed by participants, invest each participant's accounts  
 489 in the manner directed by the participant. The Board may select

490 mutual funds, commingled funds, unitized investments in the  
491 Montgomery County Group Trust, or any combination of other  
492 investments as investment options for the retirement savings  
493 plan.

494 \* \* \*

495 (d) *Trustee powers.* Except as otherwise provided in this Division, the Board  
496 may:

497 \* \* \*

498 (16) pool all or any of the assets of the trust, from time to time, with  
499 assets belonging to any other retirement plan trust or retiree health  
500 benefit trust created by the County, including any subtrust thereof,  
501 and commingle such assets and make joint or common investments  
502 and carry joint accounts on behalf of this trust [and], such other  
503 trust or trusts, or subtrusts, allocating undivided shares or interests  
504 in such investments or accounts or in any pooled assets to the two  
505 or more trusts or subtrusts in accordance with their respective  
506 interests. Any such trusts or subtrusts may be unitized for  
507 investment purposes. The Board may, subject to its fiduciary  
508 duties, offer units of such pooled trust or subtrust as an investment  
509 option under the Retirement Savings Plan. Consistent with its  
510 investment authority, the Board or its delegate may also buy or sell  
511 any assets or undivided interests in this trust or in any other trust  
512 with which the assets of this trust may be pooled, to or from this  
513 trust or such other trusts at such prices or valuations as the Board  
514 may determine in reasonable good faith; and

515 \* \* \*

516 (e) *Prohibited transactions.* The Board must not engage in any transaction  
 517 between the trust and the County, or any entity controlled by the County,  
 518 in which the Board:

519 \* \* \*

520 (4) makes any substantial purchase of securities or other property for  
 521 more than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt,  
 522 does not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in  
 523 Section 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a  
 524 subtrust;

525 (5) sells any substantial part of its securities or other property for less  
 526 than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt, does  
 527 not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in Section  
 528 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a subtrust; or

529 \* \* \*

530 **33-127. Miscellaneous.**

531 \* \* \*

532 (d) *Lost Participants.* [If the Chief Administrative Officer is unable to locate  
 533 a former participant or a beneficiary following a former participant's  
 534 death or attainment of normal retirement age, the] The Chief  
 535 Administrative Officer must [take] use all reasonable resources [steps] to  
 536 locate or communicate with a [the] former participant or beneficiary, in  
 537 order to make and process required minimum distributions as required by  
 538 Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(9). [including using the resources  
 539 available through the Federal Social Security Administration and the  
 540 Internal Revenue Service. If the Chief Administrative Officer is unable  
 541 to locate the former participant or beneficiary after making reasonable

542 efforts,] If such efforts fail, the Chief Administrative Officer or a third  
 543 party holding these amounts, must [, after 5 plan years have passed,]  
 544 distribute the former participant's or beneficiary's unprocessed required  
 545 minimum distributions [account balances] to the State under the  
 546 unclaimed property laws. No amounts must be due to a former  
 547 participant or beneficiary once paid to the State. The former participant  
 548 or beneficiary must claim the distributed amounts directly from the State.  
 549 [If the former participant or beneficiary returns, satisfactorily proves the  
 550 participant's or beneficiary's identity, and requests the account balances  
 551 after the money has escheated to the State, the County Government must  
 552 make a contribution to the retirement savings plan and pay the participant  
 553 or beneficiary the account balances to which the participant or beneficiary  
 554 is entitled.]

555 \* \* \*

556 **33-145. Powers and duties of the board.**

557 \* \* \*

558 (e) *Trustee powers*. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the Board  
 559 may:

560 \* \* \*

561 (14) pool all or any of the assets of the deferred compensation plan trust  
 562 with assets belonging to any other retirement plan trust or retiree  
 563 health benefit trust created by the County, including any subtrust  
 564 thereof. The Board may commingle the assets and make joint or  
 565 common investments and carry joint accounts on behalf of the  
 566 deferred compensation plan trust, one or more other trusts, or  
 567 subtrusts, allocating undivided shares or interests in the



568 investments or accounts, or in any pooled assets, to the trusts or  
 569 subtrusts, according to the trusts' respective interests. Any such  
 570 trusts or subtrusts may be unitized for investment purposes. The  
 571 Board may, subject to its fiduciary duties, offer units of such  
 572 pooled trust or subtrust as an investment option. Consistent with  
 573 its investment authority in this Article, the Board, or its delegate,  
 574 also may buy or sell any assets or undivided interests in any trust  
 575 where the assets of the deferred compensation plan trust are pooled  
 576 at the prices or valuations that the Board or its delegate may  
 577 [determines] determine in reasonable good faith. For the avoidance  
 578 of doubt, the Board must determine that it is consistent with its  
 579 fiduciary duties to participate in a pooled investment that permits  
 580 the purchase or sale of its units as an investment option under  
 581 another retirement plan or retiree health benefit trust created by the  
 582 County; and

583 \* \* \*

584 (f) *Prohibited transactions.* The Board must not engage in any direct or  
 585 indirect transaction between the trust and the County, or any entity  
 586 controlled by the County, that would violate the prudent person rule  
 587 (Section 33-61C) or result in the diversion of trust income or corpus in  
 588 violation of the exclusive benefit rule (Section 33-144(d)). For avoidance  
 589 of doubt, such a transaction does not include a transfer conducted on the  
 590 terms described in Section 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan  
 591 trusts or a subtrust.

592 \* \* \*

593 **33-162. Trust Fund Management**

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\* \* \*

(h) *Board Powers.* Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the Board may:

\* \* \*

(14) pool all or any of the assets of the trust, from time to time, with assets belonging to any retirement plan trust or other retiree health benefit trust created by the County, including any subtrust thereof, and commingle such assets and make joint or common investments and carry joint accounts on behalf of this trust and such other trust, [or] trusts, or subtrusts, allocating undivided shares or interests in such investments or accounts or in any pooled assets to the two or more trusts or subtrusts in accordance with their respective interests. Any such trusts or subtrusts may be unitized for investment purposes. Consistent with the authority granted in this Article, the Board may also buy or sell any assets or undivided interests in this trust or in any other trust or subtrust with which the assets of this trust may be pooled, to or from this trust or such other trusts or subtrusts at such prices or valuations as the Board may determine in reasonable good faith; and

\* \* \*

(i) *Prohibited Transactions.* The Board must not engage in any transaction between the Trust and the County or any entity controlled by the County, including a County-funded agency, or a participating agency in which the Board:

\* \* \*

619 (4) makes any substantial purchase of securities or other property for  
620 more than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt,  
621 does not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in  
622 Section 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a  
623 subtrust;

624 (5) sells any substantial part of its securities or other property for less  
625 than adequate consideration which, for avoidance of doubt, does  
626 not include a transfer conducted on the terms described in Section  
627 33-170(i) between employee benefit plan trusts or a subtrust; or

628 \* \* \*

629 **33-170. Montgomery County Group Trust**

630 \* \* \*

631 (b) *Purpose.* The Montgomery County Group Trust is established solely for  
632 the purpose of creating a collective investment vehicle intended to create  
633 investment opportunities and efficiencies for the investment of  
634 Montgomery County’s employee benefit plan trusts. The interests of  
635 each investing trust must be accounted for separately and the assets  
636 attributable to an investing trust must be held for the benefit of that trust  
637 only within the general holdings of the Montgomery County Group Trust.  
638 No employee benefit plan trust must be deemed to have an individual  
639 ownership interest in any asset held by the Montgomery County Group  
640 Trust. Instead, each employee benefit plan trust must have an undivided  
641 ownership interest in the Montgomery County Group Trust, with each  
642 trust owning an undivided ownership interest in [its] the respective  
643 subtrust or subtrusts in which it invests within the Montgomery County  
644 Group Trust, and must share proportionately with all other employee

645 benefit plan trusts participating in the subtrust within Montgomery  
 646 County Group Trust in the net income, profits, and losses thereof.

647 (c) *Participation in Group Trust.* The Board of Investment Trustees may  
 648 elect to invest all or any assets of the Employees' Retirement System,  
 649 Retirement Savings Plan, and/or Deferred Compensation Plan through  
 650 the Montgomery County Group Trust, including any one or more  
 651 subtrusts, and the Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust Board of  
 652 Trustees may elect to invest all or any assets of the Consolidated Retiree  
 653 Health Benefits Trust through the Montgomery County Group Trust,  
 654 including any one or more subtrusts. Each board described above must  
 655 discharge its duties with respect to its respective employee benefit plan  
 656 trust in accordance with the provisions of Sections 33-61 or 33-163, as  
 657 applicable, and this Section 33-170.

658 \* \* \*

659 (e) *Custodian.* The Director of Finance must serve as the custodian of the  
 660 Montgomery County Group Trust and must give bond with a surety and  
 661 for a period and in an amount as the Boards determine. If the Boards  
 662 approve, the Director of Finance may make written contracts with banks,  
 663 trust companies, insurance companies, or investment companies  
 664 authorized to do business in any state for the safe custody of investments,  
 665 banking services, the payment of benefits and expenses, and any other  
 666 function necessary to manage and safeguard the assets of the Group Trust.

667 \* \* \*

668 (i) *Partial or Full Withdrawal of an Employee Benefit Plan Trust.* An  
 669 employee benefit plan trust may withdraw, in whole or in part, from the  
 670 Montgomery County Group Trust, including a subtrust, at any time upon

671 action by its board or its authorized delegate. The amount distributed to  
 672 the employee benefit plan trust upon the withdrawal in whole or in part  
 673 will be equal to the value of the employee benefit plan trust, or part  
 674 thereof, on the date as of the effective date of the withdrawal. If an  
 675 employee benefit plan trust desires to withdraw an interest in the  
 676 Montgomery County Group Trust, or any subtrust thereunder, the  
 677 Trustees or their delegate may facilitate a transfer of that interest to  
 678 another employee benefit plan trust or subtrust thereunder at the market  
 679 value established by the custodian bank, or another entity authorized to  
 680 establish such market values, if:

- 681 (1) such other employee benefit plan trust or subtrust thereunder has  
 682 the capacity to engage in the transfer;  
 683 (2) the transfer results in such employee benefit plan trust or subtrust  
 684 thereunder having its allocation brought closer to the strategic  
 685 target as set in the employee benefit plan trust or subtrust's  
 686 investment policy statement; and  
 687 (3) the employee benefit plan or subtrust thereunder receives the  
 688 market value established by the custodian bank, or another entity  
 689 authorized to establish such market value.

690 \* \* \*


691 **Sec. 2. Effective Date.**

692 The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate  
 693 protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes  
 694 law, except:

- 695 (a) the amendments in Section 1 to §§ 33-44 and 33-120 increasing the  
 696 required distribution age from 70½ to 72 must take effect for

697 individuals attaining age 70 ½ after December 31, 2019; and  
698 (b) the amendments in Section 1 to §§ 33-44 and 33-120 requiring  
699 distributions to beneficiaries upon a participant's death must take effect  
700 for deaths occurring after December 31, 2021.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Hucker, President, County Council

7/1/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Elrich, County Executive

7/9/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council

7/12/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date