

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2018 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-1-2018

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Public Safety and Fiscal Management

Date: 02/08/18

Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Davis, Lehman, Patterson, Taveras, and Turner)

CB-1-2018 sponsored by Council Member Lehman, seeks to clarify certain benefits under the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for surviving spouses. The LOSAP program was established in 1974 and provides benefit payments to certain volunteer fire company members and their surviving spouses. Under LOSAP, should a qualified volunteer member die while receiving benefits, then his or her surviving spouse is entitled to benefits equal to 50% of the volunteer's benefits which shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the spouse. In 2014, the County Council enacted CB-22-2014 which provided an increase in the surviving spouse monthly benefit to \$250 per month.

CB-1-2018 clarifies that the surviving spouse is entitled to a minimum of \$250 per month so that the 50% applies when the amount would be more than \$250.

During the meeting, Julian Tucker, Chairman of the County Fire Commission and William Cunningham, President, PGCVFRA expressed support for the proposed bill.

The Office of Audits and Investigations reports that CB-1-2018 could have an estimated fiscal impact of \$331,500 per year should the bill be enacted. This assumes all eligible beneficiaries receive the maximum benefit, based on the Volunteer member's twenty-five years of service.

After discussion, the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee reported CB-1-2018 out favorably, 5-0.