

# Prince George's County Council

## Agenda Item Summary

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**Meeting Date:** 7/1/2008  
**Reference No.:** CB-018-2008  
**Draft No.:** 2  
**Proposer(s):** County Executive  
**Sponsor(s):** Dean, Exum, Bland, Dernoga, Turner, Knotts  
**Item Title:** An Act concerning Prince George's County Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan for the purpose of approving by legislative act an amendment to the Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan regarding the addition of line of duty death benefits

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**Drafter:** Joseph R. Hamlin, Office of Law  
**Resource Personnel:** Donald E. Bridgeman, Director

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### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

<b>Date Presented:</b>	4/29/2008	<b>Executive Action:</b>	7/8/2008 S
<b>Committee Referral:</b>	4/29/2008 - PSFM	<b>Effective Date:</b>	8/22/2008

**Committee Action:** 5/19/2008 - FAV(A)

**Date Introduced:** 6/3/2008  
**Public Hearing:** 7/1/2008 - 10:00 AM

**Council Action (1)** 7/1/2008 - ENACTED  
**Council Votes:** MB:A, WC:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, AH:A, TK:-, EO:A, IT:A  
**Pass/Fail:** P  
**Remarks:**

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### AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

**Date 5/19/2008**

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 3-0, (In favor: Knotts, Campos, Turner.)

This bill will amend the Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan to add a "line of duty" death benefit to surviving spouses. The benefit is payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies in the line of duty. This legislation is required to comply with Section 16-231(a) of the County Code which provides that any amendment to a pension plan which binds the County Council to finance or make contributions must be approved by legislative act of the County Council.

Under the current Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan, an officer who dies before retirement leaves no benefit other than a return of the officer's contributions plus interest accrued.

The County Executive stated that the County owes a debt of gratitude to all uniformed employees in public safety classes of work including those in the Deputy Sheriff's office who pay the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in the line of duty.

The Office of Law has reviewed this bill and find it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The legislation was amended by adding the effective date of July 1 in Attachment A, Section 6.3 and deleting the third sentence of this section which states, "The monthly benefits of any surviving spouse of a participant whose death in the line of duty occurred prior to the date of enactment of legislation making this change in the Plan on or after \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, shall be paid in a lump sum as soon as possible."

There will be no negative fiscal impact on the County with the enactment of CB-18-2008.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:**

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation adds a line of duty death benefit to surviving spouses in the Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan.

This is a new benefit for participants in the Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan. Under the current Deputy Sheriff's Pension Plan, a participant who dies before retirement currently leaves no benefit other than a return of employee contributions plus interest.

This legislation is required pursuant to Section 16-231 of the Prince George's County Code which provides, in part, that such pension plans may not be amended to bind the County to finance or make contributions to such pension plans, unless such amendments are approved by legislative act of the County Council.

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**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

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**INCLUSION FILES:**

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