

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 2/15/2000

Reference No.: CR-1-2000

Proposer: County Executive

Draft No.: 2

Sponsors: Wilson, Bailey, Shapiro

Item Title: A Resolution stating the expectations of the County Executive and County Council regarding the enhancement of pension benefits for County employees

Drafter: Barbara L. Holtz
Law

Resource Joseph Adler
Personnel: Personnel & Labor Relations

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__

Committee Referral: 2/1/2000 C.O.W.

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action: 2/8/2000 FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 2/1/2000

Public Hearing: __/__/__ :__ __

Council Action: 2/15/2000 ADOPTED

Council Votes: DB:A, JE:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

February 8, 2000

The resolution was reported out of the Committee of the Whole, upon a motion by Council Member Scott, seconded by Council Member Shapiro, with a favorable recommendation, as amended, by a vote of 7-0-2 (Council Members Estep and Maloney Abstaining).

The County Executive's Liaison, Mr. Robert Williams, explained that the resolution was offered by the County Executive for two purposes: to encourage the General Assembly and the Governor to release pension resources that belong to the County and individual participants and to, if possible, enhance retirement benefits for County employees. Mr. Williams was unable to provide data pertaining to the proposed withdrawal from the State Pension System, but did indicate that the provision of enhanced pension benefits is not contingent upon obtaining

legislative approval for a change in the withdrawal formula. Mr. Williams indicated that legislation had been drafted to amend the withdrawal formula, but was not able to provide a copy of the legislation to the Council at this time. In the event that the General Assembly does not act favorably upon the required legislation, the County Executive will present his proposal for enhanced pension benefits within 60 days after the end of the 2000 Session. No specific source of revenue was identified to provide the required funding for the enhanced benefits.

Deputy County Attorney Barbara Holtz stated that no formal notice has been given by the County to the State to withdraw from the State system. A withdrawal calculation has been requested from the State.

Legislative Officer Ralph Grutzmacher stated that prior to withdrawing from the State system and entering into collective bargaining over the provisions of any proposed County enhanced pension system the Labor Code and Personnel Law will need to be amended.

Council Member Estepp requested assurances that individual employees will be allowed to remain in the State Pension Plan and not be forced to participate in the proposed County-managed retirement plan. The Legislative Officer stated that the two most recent withdrawals of employee groups from the State system, Corrections Officers and Deputy Sheriffs, allowed existing employees to remain in the State system, but until a plan is proposed and presented a definite answer could not be provided.

Council Members Hendershot and Scott indicated that the Council, in rejecting CR-67-1999, agreed with the County Executive to pursue a program to provide benefits that were the same as or better than the benefits that would have been provided through the State Pension System's enhanced benefits program. Mr. Hendershot requested that an amendment to that effect be added to the third resolved clause at lines 20 through 23. The requested amendment was included within the motion for a favorable recommendation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

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

This resolution is for the purpose of stating the expectations of the County Executive and County Council regarding the enhancement of pension benefits for County employees.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: