

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 7/10/2001

Reference No.: CB-35-2001

Proposer: Estep

Draft No.: 2

Sponsors: Estep

Item Title: An Act altering the salary credit upon initial appointment of former volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians whom are appointed to a position as a career emergency response technician

Drafter: Ralph E. Grutzmacher
Legislative Officer

Resource John Timms
Personnel: Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: 5/22/2001 **Executive Action:** 8/9/2001 S

Committee Referral: 5/22/2001 PSFM **Effective Date:** 9/24/2001

Committee Action: 6/21/2001 FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 7/10/2001

Public Hearing: 7/31/2001 10:00 A.M.

Council Action: 7/31/2001 ENACTED

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

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Date: 6/21/01

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 4-0, (In favor: Councilmembers Bailey, Scott, Estep and Maloney).

This legislation will provide a salary credit upon the initial appointment of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians appointed to a position as a career emergency response technician (EMT) and remove the County residency requirement that conflicts with Article 24, Section 1-107 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Office of Personnel and Labor Relations supports the legislation with the following recommendation:

On page 2, lines 9 and 10, remove the brackets, thereby restoring the County's residency requirement.

The Office of Law stated that the issue of the County's residency preference is currently pending before the Court of Special Appeals. If the County ultimately loses an appeal, the residency preference will be unenforceable and this legislation would merely remove that unenforceable surplus language from the Personnel Law. However, if the County wins on appeal, the preference will be legally valid but this legislation will remove that preference from the Personnel Law.

The legislation was amended as follows:

1. On page 1, line 3, delete "providing" and insert "alerting".
2. On page 2, lines 9-10, remove brackets.

There may be a positive fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-35-2001. Current law provides for a salary credit for each year of prior volunteer service up to a maximum of five years. Based on the applicable salary schedule, a person appointed to fill a permanent vacancy with five full years of former volunteer service, could have received a maximum salary credit of five steps, or 17.5 percent above the entry level salary. This bill will reduce the salary credit to a maximum of one step, or 3.5 percent, for one full year of volunteer service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

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

Under existing law, newly appointed emergency response technicians, who are County residents, are credited with one salary step for each year of service as a volunteer, up to a maximum of 5 steps for 5 years of volunteer service. This differential establishes the base salary from which all future salaries are computed for the individual's career. The proposed legislation reduces this incentive to 1 step for 1 year of service and removes the existing County residence requirement that is in conflict with State law.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: