

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2014 Legislative Session

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| Reference | |
| No.: | CB-22-2014 |
| Draft No.: | 1 |
| Committee: | PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT |
| Date: | 09-11-2014 |
| Action: | FAVORABLE |

REPORT: Committee Vote: **Favorable 4-0 (In Favor: Councilmembers Toles, Davis, Lehman and Turner)**

This bill would increase the Length of Service Award Program (“LOSAP”) benefits for volunteers and surviving spouses by increasing the monthly benefit for any volunteer currently receiving benefits or that has served 25 years and attained the age of 55 as of July 1, 2015 to \$350 per month for fiscal year 2016; increasing to \$375 per month for fiscal year 2017; increasing to \$400 per month for fiscal year 2018; and increasing to \$450 per month for fiscal year 2019 and for each fiscal year thereafter. The additional benefit paid for each full year of certified service in excess of 25 years will increase to \$8 per month. The payment to active volunteers who reach the age of 70, with a minimum of 10 years active certified service will increase to \$8 per month for each year of certified service. A surviving spouse receiving benefits will be entitled to receive \$250 per month and the volunteer burial/death benefit increases to \$10,000 as of July 1, 2014. Fire Chief Bashoor, Pete Melitts, Jay Tucker, Andrew Pantelis, H. Edward Ricks, and Commissioner Bigamy all spoke in support of the legislation. The bill’s sponsor stated that it had been 14 years since an adjustment had been made to the benefits. The County Executive’s Office is proposing a 44% increase to LOSAP benefits.

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

Council Resolutions expressing support of this legislation were received from the City of Laurel and Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

The County currently provides approximately \$2.2 million to the LOSAP program. The enactment of CB-22-2014 would double the benefits for those receiving LOSAP benefits over the next four fiscal years. The bill will have an estimated fiscal impact of \$2.2 million over the next four fiscal years (estimated at \$550,000 per year).