

Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 10/21/2014
Reference No.: CB-022-2014
Draft No.: 3
Proposer(s): Lehman
Sponsor(s): Lehman, Franklin, Campos, Davis, Harrison, Olson, Patterson, Turner, Toles
Item Title: An Act concerning Length of Service Award Program for the purpose of increasing certain benefits under the Length of Service Award Program for volunteers and surviving spouses.

Drafter: Colette R. Gresham, Legislative Officer
Resource Personnel: Matthew A. Dernoga, Policy Analyst District 1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	5/13/2014	Executive Action:	11/5/2014 S
Committee Referral:	5/13/2014 - PSFM	Effective Date:	12/22/2014

Committee Action: 9/11/2014 - FAV

Date Introduced: 9/23/2014
Public Hearing: 10/21/2014 - 1:30 PM

Council Action (1) 10/21/2014 - ENACTED
Council Votes: WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

11-328

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety and Fiscal Management

Date 9/11/2014

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.

On 9/23/2014 prior to introduction the bill was amended as follows:

1. On page 2, line 23 after "thereafter" insert "follow the percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index (CPI)"
2. On page 4, line 7 after "Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)" insert "Effective July 1, 2014, and thereafter, the burial benefit shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for a qualified volunteer whose death results from an accidental personal injury arising out of and in the course of his volunteer service."

Council Resolutions expressing support of this legislation were received from the Cities of Laurel, Seat Pleasant, and New Carrollton, 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. There are an estimated 467 qualified volunteers and 108 surviving spouses who will receive benefits according to data provided by the Office of Human Resources Management. The Office of Management and Budget has estimated the cumulative fiscal impact of the proposed changes to be \$1,681,540 with estimated annual increases as follows:

FY 2015 \$269,440
FY 2016 \$784,500
FY 2017 \$156,900
FY 2018 \$156,900
FY 2019 \$313,800

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

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

In 1974 the County created the Length of Service Award Program ("LOSAP") to provide benefit payments which included survivor annuities and lump sum death benefits for volunteers and surviving spouses. The proposed legislation will increase certain benefits under the LOSAP for volunteers and surviving spouses.

10/21/2014: Prior to enactment CB-22-2014 (DR-2) was amended on the floor as follows:

1. On page 2, line 23 after "thereafter" delete "follow the percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index (CPI)"
- CB-22-2014 (DR-3) was enacted.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
