

HOUSE BILL 578

P4, L6

01r0468

By: **Delegates Cox, Ciliberti, Hornberger, Long, Mangione, Metzgar, and Shoemaker**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program –**
3 **Participation in Program – Volunteer First Responders**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain volunteer first responders to enroll and participate
5 as covered employees in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare
6 Benefits Program; authorizing the State to charge a county or municipal corporation
7 certain costs resulting from certain covered employees participating in the Program
8 under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to
9 enrollment and participation in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare
10 Benefits Program.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
13 Section 2–513.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Volunteer first responders provide an invaluable service to the State
18 and counties in Maryland; and

19 WHEREAS, The State and the majority of counties in Maryland provide workers'
20 compensation benefits to volunteers and individuals who volunteer for local fire and rescue
21 companies while on duty; now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **2-513.1.**

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "COVERED EMPLOYEE" MEANS A VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER
5 WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE, A COUNTY, OR A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
6 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

7 (3) (I) "VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS A PERSON
8 ENGAGED IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OR RESCUE SERVICES ON A
9 VOLUNTEER BASIS.

10 (II) "VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER" INCLUDES A VOLUNTEER
11 FIREFIGHTER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER, AND
12 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

13 (B) SUBJECT TO THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER § 2-503 OF THIS
14 SUBTITLE, A COVERED EMPLOYEE:

15 (1) MAY ENROLL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE OR
16 OTHER BENEFIT OPTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

17 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IS
18 SUBJECT TO THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-507 OF THIS
19 SUBTITLE.

20 (C) (1) IF THE COVERED EMPLOYEE QUALIFIES FOR THE HONORABLE
21 LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN VOLUNTEER POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY
22 MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION PROGRAM UNDER
23 § 10-208(I-1) OF THE TAX - GENERAL ARTICLE, THE STATE MAY CHARGE A COUNTY
24 OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THE RESPECTIVE COVERED EMPLOYEE'S TOTAL COST
25 RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION.

26 (2) THE RESPECTIVE EMPLOYER SHARE OF THE COST OF THE
27 PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE BASED ON THE
28 STATE SUBSIDY ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2020.