

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 368

(Senator Jackson, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Membership - Emergency Medical Technicians

This bill allows emergency medical technicians (EMTs) employed by a participating governmental unit (PGU) to participate in the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) if their employer elects to join LEOPS. The bill applies only to paid EMTs, not volunteer EMTs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill applies only to PGUs.

Local Effect: The bill is authorizing in nature, allowing PGUs that elect to participate in LEOPS to include paid EMTs as members. Any costs associated with a decision to participate in LEOPS are borne by a PGU that elects to participate. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: LEOPS was established on July 1, 1990, with participation a condition of employment for specified public safety officers. Members of LEOPS earn 2% of their average final compensation (AFC) for each year of creditable service. Vested members qualify for a normal service retirement benefit at age 50 or with at least 25 years of creditable service. However, the normal service allowance is capped at 65% of AFC, meaning that members stop accruing benefits after 32.5 years of service (2% x 32.5 = 65%). Chapter 784 of 2018 increased the cap on LEOPS normal service

retirement from 60% to 65% of AFC. The member contribution is 7% of earnable compensation.

Counties and municipal corporations in the State are eligible to participate in LEOPS as PGUs. If 60% of the law enforcement officers or paid firefighters (including paid paramedics) in an eligible governmental unit petition to become members of LEOPS, the legislative body of the eligible local government may approve their participation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 791 (Delegate Hornberger, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Caroline and Prince George's counties; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; State Retirement Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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