



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY OFFICE OF LAW

Legislative Summary

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Lori L. Blair Klasmeier, Supervising County Attorney /s/

Via: Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney /s/

Date: May 6, 2024

Subject: Bill No. 50-24 – Pensions – Deferred Retirement Option Program – Term of Participation Period

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 50-24.

Background

Certain participants in County public safety pension plans are eligible to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (“DROP”). The term of the program is three years, with three optional one-year extensions. Effective July 1, 2023, participants in the Police Service Retirement Plan were eligible to extend their DROP participation for an additional year, for a total of seven years. If an employee participates in the program, the employee continues to be employed by the County, and an amount equal to the employee’s retirement benefit is paid into an account assigned to the employee and maintained by the County. Interest is credited to the employee’s account at a legislated rate. At the end of the participation in the program, the participant is required to retire and is entitled to the funds in the DROP account.

Purpose

The purpose of Bill No. 50-24 is to allow certain participants in the Fire Service Retirement Plan and the Detention Officers’ and Deputy Sheriffs’ Retirement Plan to extend their DROP participation for an additional year, for a total of seven years.

Bill No. 50-24

SECTION 1.

This section adds new paragraphs § 5-1-506(b)(6) and (7) to allow participants in the Fire

Note: This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

Service Retirement Plan in the job classifications of Fire Fighter (all levels), Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief, Fire Division Chief, Fire Deputy Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, or Fire Chief, and participants in the Detention Officers' and Deputy Sheriffs' Retirement Plan in the job classifications of Detention Officer, Detention Corporal, Detention Sergeant, Detention Lieutenant, Detention Captain, Assistant Correctional Facility Administrator (hired before October 29, 2020), or Correctional Facility Administrator (hired before October 29, 2020) to extend their DROP participation for an additional year, for a total of seven years.

Paragraph **(b)(1)** is modified to update numbering.

Paragraph **(b)(3)** is modified and paragraph **(b)(4)** is added and provides that eligible participants in the Fire Service Retirement Plan need approval of the appointing authority to extend DROP participation to a seventh year.

Current paragraph **(b)(4)** is renumbered as paragraph **(b)(5)**.

SECTION 2.

This section provides that the provisions of the Ordinance apply retroactively to July 1, 2024.

SECTION 3.

This section provides that the Ordinance shall take effect 45 days from the date that it becomes law.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer
Janssen Evelyn, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jeff Amoros, Chief of Staff
Ethan Hunt, Government Relations Officer
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer
Billie Penley, Controller
Anne Budowski, Personnel Officer