Introduced	
Public Hearing —	
Council Action —	
Executive Action -	
Effective Date -	

## **County Council Of Howard County, Maryland**

2014 Legislative Session Legislative Day No. 10

Bill No. 51 -2014

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT amending the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan in order to create a Deferred Retirement Option Program II (DROP II) to replace the currently existing Deferred Retirement Option Program; defining certain terms; establishing certain deadlines; providing for the transfer to DROP II; setting forth the eligibility for DROP II to include certain employees of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services; providing for the term of DROP II participation; providing for the termination of participation in the DROP II program; requiring that certain accounts be established and maintained; setting forth provisions related to the disability, death, or retirement of DROP II participants; providing for the status of certain County employees whose employment continues past the DROP II term; and generally relating to the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan.

Introduced and read first time, 2014. Ord	lered posted	and hearing scheduled.
I	By orderS	Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator
Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of second time at a public hearing on,		been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a
I	By order	Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator
This Bill was read the third time on, 2014 and Passeo	d, Passe	ed with amendments, Failed
I Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive		Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator al this day of . 2014 at a.m./p.m.
	• •	,
I	By order	Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator
Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive,	, 2014	
	_ k	Sen Ulman County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1	Section 1. L	<b>be it Enacted</b> by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that the Howard
2	County Code	e is amended as follows:
3		
4	1.	By amending:
5		Title 1- Human Resources
6		Section 1.437A "Deferred Retirement Option Program"
7		
8	2.	By adding:
9		Title 1 – Human Resources
LO		Section 1.438A "Deferred Retirement Option Program II"
l1		
L2		Title 1. Human Resources.
L3		Subtitle 4A. Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan.
L4		Article IIIA. Trust Fund.
L5		
L6	Section 1.43	37A. Deferred Retirement Option Program I.
L7	(a) Definition	ons. In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated:
L8	(1)	DROP I means the Deferred Retirement Option Program established pursuant to
L9		this section and in effect between May 1, 2004 and January 1, 2015.
20	(2)	DROP I account means the account established for the DROP participant in
21		accordance with subsection (h).
22	(3)	DROP I effective date means May 1, 2004.
23	(4)	DROP I participant means a participant in the Howard County Police and Fire
24		Employees' Retirement Plan who:
25		a. Is eligible to participate in [[the]] DROP I as provided in this section
26		1.437A; and
27		b. Elects to participate in [[the]] DROP I as provided in this section.
28	(b) Eligib	ility. A participant in the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement
29	Plan is elig	tible to participate in [[the]] DROP I if the participant:
30	(1)	Is a Police Officer; and
31	(2)	Either:

Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service as of [[the DROP 1 a. 2 effective date,]]MAY 1, 2004 or 3 b. Has not completed 25 years of creditable service as of [[the DROP effective date]]MAY 1, 2004 but [[thereafter]]completes 25 years of 4 creditable service, 26 years of creditable service, or 27 years of creditable 5 service BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015. 6 7 For purposes of this subsection, years of creditable service attributable to unused sick leave that 8 may otherwise be credited pursuant to section 1.428A(c) shall not be counted. All other years of creditable service are counted for purposes of this subsection. 9 10 (c) Election. An eligible participant may elect to participate in [[the]] DROP I for a period of either: 11 12 (1) Four years, or 13 (2) Three years. 14 ANY SUCH ELECTION SHALL BE MADE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2014. (d) Application. An eligible participant who elects to participate in [[the]] DROP I shall: 15 16 (1) Complete and submit a written election form to the retirement coordinator, on a form approved by or acceptable to the Retirement Plan Committee, stating: 17 18 a. The participant's intention to participate in [[the]] DROP I; The date, WHICH SHALL BE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2014, when the 19 b. 20 participant desires to begin to participate in [[the]] DROP I; The period that the participant desires to participate in [[the]] DROP I, as 21 c. 22 provided in subsection (c) of this section; and Such other information required by the Retirement Plan Committee to d. 23 24 implement [[the]] DROP I with respect to the participant, including a binding letter of resignation accepted by the County Executive, or the 25 Executive's designee, setting forth the date the participant intends to 26 terminate employment following completion of the elected DROP I 27 period. 28 29 (2) Submit the application to the retirement coordinator by one of the following dates, provided that if the applicable due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or day when 30

- the County's offices are closed, the due date shall be the next day during which the County's offices are open:
  - a. If the participant will have completed at least 25 years of creditable service as of [[the DROP effective date]] MAY 1, 2004, the application is due to be submitted no later than March 1, 2004, but no earlier than February 3, 2004.
  - [[b. If the participant had not earned 25 years of creditable service as of the DROP effective date, the application is due to be submitted no later than the first day of the month that is one month but no earlier than the first day of the month that is three months, prior to the first day of the month coincident with or next following the date the participant earns 25 years of creditable service, 26 years of creditable service, or 27 years of creditable service.]]
  - B. If the participant has not earned 25 years of creditable service as of May 1, 2004, the application is due to be submitted no later than one month before the first day of the month coincident with or next following the date the participant earns 25 years of creditable service, 26 years of creditable service, or 27 years of creditable service and no earlier than three months before the first day of the month coincident with or next following the date the participant earns 25 years of creditable service, 26 years of creditable service, 26 years of creditable service, 27 years of creditable service.
  - C. AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP I WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2014.
- 25 (e) *Irrevocability of Election/Failure to Elect*.

- (1) A participant's election to participate in DROP I is irrevocable on the 15th day following the date the election to participate is delivered to the retirement coordinator.
- Failure to elect to participate in DROP I at a time prescribed in subsection (d)(2) when eligible to participate in DROP I in accordance with subsection (b) is deemed to be an election not to participate in DROP I at that time.

- Failure to elect to participate in DROP I at the last time prescribed in subsection (d)(2) when eligible to participate in DROP I in accordance with subsection (b) is deemed to be an irrevocable election not to participate in DROP I.
- 4 (f) Termination of Participation. Participation in DROP I terminates if the DROP I participant:
  - (1) Reaches a termination date;
  - (2) ELECTS TO TRANSFER TO *DROP II* DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1.438A AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (K) OF THIS SECTION: OR
- 8 ([[2]]3)Dies.

- (g) Extension of Employment Beyond Scheduled DROP I Period.
  - (1) A DROP I participant may remain in the employ of the County as a covered employee for a period of not less than six months, but for no longer than one year beyond the last day of DROP I participation provided for in subsection (d), by submitting an application to extend County employment as a covered employee no later than the first day of the month that is three months prior to the date DROP I participation is scheduled to end. The application shall be made on a form approved by or acceptable to the Retirement Plan Committee and shall be contingent on the approval of the County Executive, or his or her designee. A DROP I participant may accept employment with the County in a position other than that of a covered employee without submitting the application and receiving the approval of the County Executive, or his or her designee, as described in this subsection 1.437A(g)(1).
  - (2) If a DROP I participant who had elected a four-year DROP period receives approval to remain in the employ of the County beyond the last day of DROP I participation provided for in subsection (d), the DROP I participant's compensation will be subject to pick-up contributions pursuant to section 1.426A, except as provided in subsection 1.426A(b). For purposes of determining whether a participant has earned 30 years of creditable service under subsection 1.426A(b), creditable service shall not include any period of DROP I participation, even if the DROP I participant's compensation was subject to the County pick up contributions during the period of DROP I participation under subsection (h)(4)(a) below.

(3) IF THE CHIEF OF POLICE ("CHIEF") IS A DROP I PARTICIPANT: 1 2 THE CHIEF MAY REMAIN IN THE EMPLOY OF THE COUNTY AS THE CHIEF A. 3 BEYOND THE LAST DAY OF THE DROP I PARTICIPATION AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (L) OF SECTION 1.438A, AND 4 THE COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF DURING ANY FULL CALENDAR MONTH OF 5 В. 6 EMPLOYMENT AS THE CHIEF, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT DURING AND AFTER 7 HIS OR HER DROP I PARTICIPATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE 8 DETERMINATION OF AVERAGE COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 1.406A(F). (h) Payment of Retirement Benefit, Accrual of Service Credit, Disposition of Other Benefits 9 During DROP I Participation. 10 As of the effective date of participation in DROP I, the Retirement Plan 11 (1) Committee shall determine the DROP I participant's normal retirement benefit as 12 provided for in section 1.428A, without the adjustment for unused sick leave 13 pursuant to subsection 1.428A(c). 14 During the period of the DROP I participant's participation in [[the]] DROP I, the (2) 15 16 trustees shall: Credit the DROP I participant's monthly retirement income determined 17 a. 18 pursuant to section 1.428A, without the adjustment for unused sick leave pursuant to subsection 1.428A(c), to a DROP I account for the benefit of 19 20 the DROP I participant; and b. Adjust the DROP I participant's credit under subsection (h)(2)a. for cost of 21 22 living increases in accordance with section 1.435A. A DROP I participant will not accrue credit for years of creditable service during (3) 23 24 the period of DROP I participation. A DROP I participant's compensation during the period of DROP I participation: 25 (4) Shall be subject to the County pick up contributions provided for in 26 a. 27 section 1.426A until such time as the provisions of subsection 1.426A(b) apply to the DROP I participant assuming, solely for purposes of this 28 29 subsection (h)(4)a., that the DROP I participant continues to earn years of creditable Service while a DROP I participant; and 30

b. Shall not be used to increase the DROP I participant's average 1 2 compensation. 3 (5) If during the period of a DROP I participant's participation in DROP I, or an extension granted pursuant to subsection (g)(2), the participant reaches a 4 termination date by reason of total and permanent disability in accordance with 5 section 1.431A, the participant, individually, or by a representative if the 6 participant is unable to make an election due to the disability, may elect to receive 7 one of the following benefits: 8 The benefit calculated pursuant to section 1.431A, based upon the 9 a. participant's actual years of creditable service, if applicable, and average 10 compensation earned through the termination date and calculated as if the 11 DROP I participant had not elected to participate in [[the]] DROP I. A 12 DROP I participant who elects the benefit provided for in this subsection 13 (h)(5)a. will forfeit his or her DROP I account; or 14 The sum of: b. 15 16 (i) One hundred percent of the balance of the DROP I participant's DROP I account as of the DROP I participant's termination date, 17 paid in the form described in subsection 1.437A(i)(1)a. or 18 1.437A(i)(1)b., plus 19 20 (ii) The monthly benefit which, when combined with 100 percent of the balance of the DROP I participant's DROP I account described 21 in subsection (h)(5)b.(i), is the actuarial equivalent of the monthly 22 benefit described in subsection (h)(5)a. 23 24 (6) If during the period of a DROP I participant's participation in DROP I or an extension granted pursuant to subsection (g)(2) the participant reaches a 25 termination date by reason of death, one of the following benefits will be paid: 26 The participant's beneficiary will receive: 27 a. (i) The general benefit described in subsection 1.439A(a)(1), plus 28 29 (ii) One hundred percent of the balance of the DROP I participant's DROP I account as of the DROP I participant's termination date, 30

1			paid in the form described in subsection 1.437A(i)(1)a. or
2			1.437A(i)(1)b., or
3		b. The pa	rticipant's surviving spouse or surviving children, as applicable,
4		will red	reive:
5		(i)	One hundred percent of the balance of the DROP I participant's
6			DROP I account as of the DROP I participant's termination date,
7			paid in the form described in subsection 1.437A(i)(1)a. or
8			1.437A(i)(1)b., plus
9		(ii)	The monthly benefit determined pursuant to subsection
10			1.439A(a)(2) or 1.439A(b) based upon the participant's actual
11			years of creditable service and average compensation earned
12			through the date of death and calculated as if the DROP I
13			participant had not elected to participate in [[the]] DROP I.
14			
15		Benefit	s will be paid to the DROP I participant's surviving spouse or
16		survivi	ng children only to the extent the requirements of subsections
17		1.439A	(a)(2) and $1.439A(b)(2)$ or $1.439A(b)(3)$ are met. If the
18		require	ments of subsections 1.439A(a)(2) and 1.439A(b)(2) or
19		1.439A	(b)(3) are not met, the DROP I participant's surviving spouse or
20		survivi	ng children, as applicable, will receive the benefit described in
21		subsect	ion (h)(6)a.
22	(7)	During the pe	riod of a DROP I participant's participation in DROP I, and any
23		extension of p	articipation in DROP I granted pursuant to subsection 1.437A(g),
24		the DROP I p	articipant shall continue to be eligible to participate in any Health
25		and Welfare P	an and Deferred Compensation Plan, and receive any other benefits
26		otherwise ava	ilable to County employees who are Police Officers and shall
27		continue to be	subject to the personnel laws, regulations and policies applicable to
28		an employee.	
29	(8)	The DROP I	account is maintained solely for purposes of accounting for the
30		DROP I partic	ipant's benefit from [[the]] DROP I. The trustees shall be under no
31		obligation to se	egregate funds from the trust for the participant's DROP I account.

(i) Payment of Retirement Income and DROP I Account at Termination Date.

- (1) Upon the termination of a DROP I participant's employment with the County no earlier than the end of the DROP I participation period pursuant to subsection (d), the trustees shall pay to the participant, or to the DROP I participant's beneficiary, if the participant has died, the applicable percentage of the amount accrued in the DROP I account for the DROP I participant, determined in accordance with subsection (j) and as adjusted for unused sick leave, determined at the end of the DROP I participant's participation in DROP I, without regard to an extension granted pursuant to subsection 1.437A(g)(2), in the form of:
  - a. An eligible rollover distribution, pursuant to section 1.444A;
  - A lump sum distribution, reduced by any withholding taxes remitted to the
     Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority;
  - c. The normal form of monthly benefit specified in section 1.428A if the participant's monthly income is payable in the normal form of monthly benefit specified in section 1.428A; or
  - d. The form of monthly benefit elected by the DROP I participant in accordance with section 1.442A with respect to the DROP I participant's monthly income.

The form of payment shall be at the election of the DROP I participant or the DROP I participant's beneficiary, as applicable. In the event the DROP I participant or the DROP I participant's beneficiary elects payment in the form described in subsection c. or d. of this subsection 1.437A(i), the monthly benefit shall be the actuarial equivalent of the balance of the DROP I account as of the date benefit payments commence.

(2) Upon the termination of a DROP I participant's employment with the County no earlier than the end of the DROP I participation period pursuant to subsection (d), but subject to the provisions pertaining to extension of employment pursuant to subsection (g), the participant will receive the monthly retirement income determined in accordance with section 1.428A or 1.442A, as adjusted for cost of

1		living increas	es pursuant to section 1.435A and as adjusted for unused sick leave,
2		pursuant to su	absection 1.428A(c).
3	(3)	If the DROP	I participant reaches a termination date, other than by reason of
4		disability dete	ermined pursuant to section 1.431A or death, prior to the end of the
5		DROP I parti	cipation period pursuant to subsection (d), without regard to whether
6		the termination	on of employment is voluntary by the participant or involuntary and
7		at the request	of the County:
8		a. The pa	articipant's DROP I account shall be forfeited; and
9		b. The p	participant's monthly retirement income shall be determined in
10		accord	dance with section 1.428A including the years of creditable service
11		and co	ompensation earned while the participant was a DROP I participant.
12		c. Notwi	thstanding the foregoing:
13		(i)	Subsections 1.437A(i)(3)a. and b. do not apply if the DROP I
14			participant is:
15			(A) The Chief of Police and reaches a termination date as a
16			result of his or her removal by the County Executive; or
17			(B) A Police Major and reaches a termination date as a result of
18			his or her removal by the Chief of Police.
19		(ii)	If the Chief of Police or a Police Major is removed by the DROP I
20			participant's appointing authority prior to completing four years of
21			DROP I participation, the DROP I participant, or the DROP I
22			participant's beneficiary if the DROP I participant has died, will
23			receive, without regard to the period the participant elected to
24			participate in [[the]] DROP I pursuant to subsection (d), the
25			following:
26			(A) A percentage of the DROP I account determined in
27			accordance with subsection (j) as if the DROP I participant
28			had elected a three-year DROP period pursuant to
29			subsection (d) and remained in the employ of the County as
30			a covered employee for the greater of:
31			i. Three years; or

1		ii. The actual number of years and months of DROP I
2		participation, plus
3		(B) The benefit determined in accordance with subsection
4		1.437A(i)(2).
5	(4)	Extension of employment beyond four-year DROP I period. A DROP I participant
6		who elected a four-year DROP period pursuant to subsection (c) and who receives
7		approval to remain in the employ of the County beyond the DROP I period
8		pursuant to subsection (g)(1) and who remains in the employ of the County for at
9		least six months beyond the DROP I period, will receive the following benefit
10		upon his or her termination date:
11		a. The balance of the DROP I account, determined pursuant to subsection (i)
12		as adjusted for interest at five percent per year, compounded annually,
13		from the date of the expiration of the DROP I period pursuant to the
14		participant's original election to participate in DROP I, through the DROP
15		I participant's termination date, compounded annually, plus
16		b. The monthly retirement income pursuant to section 1.428A or 1.442A as
17		of the date of the participant's participation in DROP I, as adjusted for
18		unused sick leave pursuant to subsection 1.428A(c) and cost of living
19		adjustments pursuant to section 1.435A, plus
20		c. An additional monthly retirement income equal to one percent multiplied
21		by the participant's average compensation determined as of the participant's
22		termination date and including, as applicable, periods of participation in
23		[[the]] DROP I, multiplied by the years of creditable service earned
24		between the date of the expiration of the DROP I period pursuant to the
25		participant's original election to participate in DROP I and the participant's
26		termination date, to the extent that the additional credit for years of
27		creditable service pursuant to this subsection (i)(4)c. does not cause the
28		participant's total years of creditable service to exceed 30 years. The
29		foregoing limit does not include additional credit for accrued sick leave
30		determined at the participant's termination date.
31		

- If the DROP I participant reaches a termination date for reasons other than death or disability prior to completing at least six full months of service for the County as a Police Officer after the four-year DROP I period shall receive benefit described in subsection (i).
- (5) Extension of employment beyond three-year DROP period. A DROP I participant who elected a three-year DROP period pursuant to subsection (c) and who receives approval to remain in the employ of the County beyond the DROP I period pursuant to subsection (g)(1) shall receive one additional deposit to his or her DROP I account pursuant to subsection (h)(2), for each additional full month of employment for the County as a Police Officer to a maximum of 12 additional deposits. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the DROP I participant reaches a termination date for reasons other than death or disability prior to completing at least six full months of service as a Police Officer, any additions to the DROP I participant's DROP I account described in this subsection (i)(5) made during the period of extension of employment shall be forfeited.
- (j) Percentage of DROP I Account Payable.
  - (1) The applicable percentage of the DROP I account payable to a DROP I participant who elects and completes a four-year DROP I participation period in accordance with subsection (c) shall be 100 percent.
    - (2) The applicable percentage of the DROP I account payable to a DROP I participant who elects and completes a three-year DROP I participation period in accordance with subsection (c) shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

Creditable Service	Applicable
at DROP I	Percentage
Entry Date	
25 years	89
More than 25 years	87

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j)(2) and subject to subsection (j)(4), if a DROP I participant who elected a three-year DROP participation period in accordance with subsection (c) continues in the employ of the County as

a Police Officer for at least six months beyond the three-year period, in accordance with subsection (g), the applicable percentage will be increased in accordance with the following table, but will not increase to more than 100 percent:

Applicable Percentage	Increase per Full Month of Employment as a Police Officer After Expiration of Three-Year DROP Period
89 percent	.9167
87 percent	1.083

- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (j)(2) and (j)(3), with respect to a DROP I participant who elected a three-year DROP participation period in accordance with subsection (c) and who elected to continue in the employ of the County as a Police Officer for at least six months beyond the three-year DROP participation period, in accordance with subsection (g), but reached a termination date for reasons other than death or disability prior to completing six full months of service as a Police Officer beyond the three-year DROP participation period, the increase in the applicable percentage shall be zero.
- (K) ELECTION TO TRANSFER TO DROP II.
  - (1) A DROP I PARTICIPANT WHO IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN DROP I ON JANUARY 1, 2015 MAY ELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II. IF THE DROP I PARTICIPANT MAKES SUCH AN ELECTION:
    - A. THE DROP I PARTICIPANT'S DROP ACCOUNT SHALL BE RECALCULATED AS IF HE OR SHE ELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF HIS OR HER DROP I PARTICIPATION;
    - B. THE DATE OF RESIGNATION SET FORTH IN THE DROP I PARTICIPANT'S BINDING LETTER OF RESIGNATION, AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D)(1)D. SHALL NO LONGER BE BINDING;
    - C. THE DROP I PARTICIPANT SHALL BE SUBJECT IN ALL RESPECTS TO SECTION 1.438A; AND
    - D. THE APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE FOR PERIODS PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2015 SHALL BE 3.5%.

- 1 (2) ANY ELECTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (K) SHALL BE IRREVOCABLE WHEN MADE 2 AND SHALL BE MADE NO LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015.
- 3 ([[k]]L) Adjustment for Maximum Limitations on Benefits. The benefits payable pursuant to this
- 4 section 1.437A shall be adjusted, if necessary, to conform to the limitations on the accrual of
- 5 benefits pursuant to section 1.433A.

## SECTION 1.438A. DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM II.

- 8 (A) *Definitions*. In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated:
- 9 (1) DROP II MEANS THE DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
  10 UNDER THIS SECTION 1.438A, PURSUANT TO WHICH A PARTICIPANT AGREES TO
  11 DELAY RECEIPT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS WHILE THE PARTICIPANT CONTINUES TO
  12 WORK.
- 13 (2) *DROP II PARTICIPANT* MEANS A PARTICIPANT WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND WHO ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II.
  - (3) DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD MEANS THE TIME DURING WHICH A PARTICIPANT PARTICIPATES IN DROP WHILE ACTIVELY EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY. DROP PARTICIPATION PERIODS MAY BEGIN ON THE FIRST DAY OF ANY MONTH ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015.
    - (4) DROP II ACCOUNT MEANS THE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED FOR A DROP II
      PARTICIPANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (H) INTO WHICH THE
      PARTICIPANT'S EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLUS
      INTEREST ARE PAID WHILE THE PARTICIPANT CONTINUES TO WORK FOR THE
      COUNTY.
    - (5) DROP II EFFECTIVE DATE MEANS JANUARY 1, 2015.
  - (6) APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE MEANS 3.5%; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE ASSUMED RATE OF RETURN (NET OF INVESTMENT EXPENSES) ON THE PLAN'S INVESTMENTS ("INVESTMENT RETURN RATE") AS MOST RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE CHANGES FROM THE CURRENT INVESTMENT RETURN RATE OF 7.5%, THE APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE SHALL BE THE INVESTMENT RETURN RATE MINUS 4.0%; BUT FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN 1.5%.

1 (B) *ELIGIBILITY*.

- 2 (1) A PARTICIPANT IN THE PLAN, OTHER THAN A PARTICIPANT IN DROP I, IS ELIGIBLE
  3 TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II IF THE PARTICIPANT HAS COMPLETED AT LEAST 25
  4 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE.
- 5 (2) A PARTICIPANT IN DROP I WHO HAS NOT REACHED THE LAST DAY OF HIS OR HER
  6 DROP I PARTICIPATION PERIOD AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015 IS ELIGIBLE TO
  7 PARTICIPATE IN DROP II UNDER THE TRANSFER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1.437A(K)
  8 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 9 (3) An active participant who, on January 1, 2015, has accrued 33 or more
  10 Years of creditable service will be allowed a 90 day period immediately
  11 Following January 1, 2015 to elect to enter DROP II for a DROP II
  12 Participation period of 2 years which will begin as of January 1, 2015 and
  13 END on December 31, 2016.
- 14 (4) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE
  15 ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNUSED SICK LEAVE THAT MAY OTHERWISE BE CREDITED
  16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.428A(C) SHALL NOT BE COUNTED. ALL OTHER YEARS OF
  17 CREDITABLE SERVICE ARE COUNTED FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 18 (C) TERM OF DROP II PARTICIPATION. THE TERM OF DROP II PARTICIPATION SHALL BE
  19 DETERMINED BY THE DROP II PARTICIPANT; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
  20 SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF THIS SECTION, THE MINIMUM DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD IS TWO YEARS
  21 AND THE MAXIMUM DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD IS FIVE YEARS. A PARTICIPANT WHO ENTERS
  22 DROP II BUT DOES NOT COMPLETE THE MINIMUM PARTICIPATION PERIOD OF TWO YEARS BEFORE
  23 HIS OR HER TERMINATION DATE SHALL HAVE HIS OR HER RETIREMENT INCOME RECALCULATED AS
  24 IF HE OR SHE NEVER ENTERED DROP. IN SUCH A CASE, THE PARTICIPANT'S DROP II ACCOUNT
- 25 WILL BE ZERO DOLLARS.
- 26 (D) *APPLICATION*. AN ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT WHO ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II SHALL:
- 27 (1) COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A WRITTEN ELECTION TO THE COORDINATOR ON A FORM
  28 APPROVED BY OR ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMITTEE, STATING:
  - A. THE PARTICIPANT'S INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II;
- 30 B. THE DATE WHEN THE PARTICIPANT INTENDS TO BEGIN TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II; AND

2 DROP II WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICIPANT. 3 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION (D), SUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO THE COORDINATOR BETWEEN 90 AND 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE 4 DATE THE PARTICIPANT INTENDS TO BEGIN TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II. 5 (3) A PARTICIPANT WHO TRANSFERS FROM DROP I TO DROP II PURSUANT TO SECTION 6 1.437A(K) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE 7 COORDINATOR NO LATER THAN 90 DAYS FOLLOWING JANUARY 1, 2015. 8 (4) AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT WHO, AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015, HAS ACCRUED 33 OR MORE 9 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE AND ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DROP II SHALL 10 11 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE COORDINATOR NO LATER THAN 90 DAYS 12 FOLLOWING JANUARY 1, 2015. (E) TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION. PARTICIPATION IN DROP II TERMINATES IF THE DROP II 13 14 PARTICIPANT: REACHES A TERMINATION DATE BY REASON OF DEATH, DISABILITY OR 15 (1) 16 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT; 17 (2) ACCRUES 35 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE (EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION 18 (B)(3), OR 19 (3) REACHES THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS OR HER DROP PARTICIPATION DATE. 20 (F) TERMINATION OF DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD. A DROP II PARTICIPANT SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST 18 MONTHS' WRITTEN NOTICE 21 (1) 22 TO THE COORDINATOR OF HIS OR HER INTENT TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT AND END THE DROP PARTICIPATION PERIOD. THIS NOTICE SHALL BE IRREVOCABLE 60 23 24 DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE IS RECEIVED BY THE COORDINATOR. 25 (2) TERMINATION OF DROP II PARTICIPATION. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (L) OF THIS SECTION 1.438A, THE TERMINATION DATE OF A DROP II PARTICIPANT 26 27 SHALL BE THE LAST DAY OF HIS OR HER DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD. THE DROP II PARTICIPANT WILL BEGIN RECEIVING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT AS OF THE 28 29 FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE END OF THE DROP II PARTICIPATION 30 PERIOD. THE TERMINATION DATE OF A PARTICIPANT WHO FAILS TO SUBMIT THE

SUCH OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT

C.

- DOCUMENTS REQUESTING RETIREMENT SHALL BE THE DATE HE OR SHE COMPLETES

  FIVE YEARS AS A DROP PARTICIPANT.
- 3 (3) PENALTY FOR EARLY TERMINATION. A DROP II PARTICIPANT WHO HAS COMPLETED TWO YEARS OF DROP II PARTICIPATION AND TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO 4 5 COMPLETION OF THE 18 MONTH PERIOD PROVIDED IN THE NOTICE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL FORFEIT A PORTION OF THE INTEREST 6 7 ACCRUED IN THE PREVIOUS MONTHS. THE NUMBER OF MONTHS OF INTEREST 8 FORFEITED IS EQUAL TO THE LESSER OF (A) 12 MONTHS OR (B) 18 MINUS THE 9 NUMBER OF FULL CALENDAR MONTHS ACTUALLY SERVED AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT AND END THE DROP PARTICIPATION 10 11 PERIOD WAS PROVIDED TO THE COORDINATOR. IF A DROP II PARTICIPANT FAILS TO 12 GIVE ANY NOTICE, THE INTEREST PENALTY SHALL BE 12 MONTHS. THERE SHALL BE NO PENALTY UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (F)(3) WITH RESPECT TO A DROP II 13 PARTICIPANT WHO IS SUBJECT TO AN INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF 14 EMPLOYMENT. 15
- 16 (4) EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION. A DROP II PARTICIPANT WHO HAS DECLARED HIS
  17 OR HER WRITTEN INTENT TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT AND END HIS OR HER DROP
  18 II PARTICIPATION MAY REQUEST A ONE-TIME EXTENSION OF NOT MORE THAN SIX
  19 MONTHS. APPROVAL OF THE EXTENSION SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE
  20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE. NO EXTENSION SHALL EXTEND THE
  21 LENGTH OF DROP II PARTICIPATION TO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.
- 22 (G) STATUS DURING PARTICIPATION.
- 23 (1) ACTIVE PARTICIPANT. A DROP II PARTICIPANT WILL REMAIN AN ACTIVE
  24 PARTICIPANT IN THE PLAN UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF HIS OR HER DROP II
  25 PARTICIPATION PERIOD.
- 26 (2) APPLICATION OF COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS: DURING THE DROP II
  27 PARTICIPATION PERIOD, THE MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME OF DROP II
  28 PARTICIPANTS WHICH IS ACCUMULATED IN THEIR DROP II ACCOUNTS WILL NOT BE
  29 SUBJECT TO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS UNDER SECTION 1.435A.
- 30 (3) A DROP II PARTICIPANT WILL NOT ACCRUE CREDIT FOR YEARS OF CREDITABLE
  31 SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD OF DROP II PARTICIPATION.

(4) A DROP II PARTICIPANT'S COMPENSATION DURING THE DROP II PARTICIPATION 1 2 PERIOD: 3 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE COUNTY PICK UP CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED FOR A. 4 IN SECTION 1.426A UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION 1.426A(B) APPLY TO THE DROP II PARTICIPANT ASSUMING, SOLELY FOR 5 PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (G)(4)A., THAT THE DROP II PARTICIPANT 6 7 CONTINUES TO EARN YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE WHILE A DROP II 8 PARTICIPANT; AND SHALL NOT BE USED TO INCREASE THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S AVERAGE 9 В. 10 COMPENSATION. DURING THE PERIOD OF A DROP II PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN DROP II, THE (5) 11 12 DROP II PARTICIPANT SHALL CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY 13 HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN AND DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN, AND RECEIVE 14 ANY OTHER BENEFITS OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE 15 POLICE OFFICERS OR FIREFIGHTERS (AS APPLICABLE) AND SHALL CONTINUE TO BE 16 SUBJECT TO THE PERSONNEL LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES APPLICABLE TO 17 POLICE OFFICERS OR FIREFIGHTERS (AS APPLICABLE). 18 (H) DROP II ACCOUNT. 19 (1) AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF PARTICIPATION IN DROP II, THE COORDINATOR 20 SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DROP II ACCOUNT FOR EACH DROP II PARTICIPANT. THE DROP II ACCOUNT IS MAINTAINED SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF 21 ACCOUNTING FOR THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S BENEFIT FROM DROP II. THE 22 COMMITTEE SHALL BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO SEGREGATE FUNDS FROM THE 23 24 TRUST FOR THE PARTICIPANT'S DROP II ACCOUNT. 25 (2) DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN DROP II, 26 THE COORDINATOR SHALL CREDIT THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS TO THE DROP II 27 PARTICIPANT'S DROP II ACCOUNT: THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME DETERMINED 28 A. 29 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.428A, AS OF THE PARTICIPANT'S DROP II 30 PARTICIPATION DATE WITHOUT THE ADJUSTMENT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE 31 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 1.428A(C), AND WITHOUT ADJUSTMENT FOR

1		COST OF LIVING INCREASES PROVIDED TO RETIREES UNDER SECTION 1.435A
2		OF THIS SUBTITLE AND SUBSECTION (G)(4)A OF THIS SECTION.
3		B. AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE PICK-UP CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE COUNTY
4		ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPANT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1.426A OF THIS
5		SUBTITLE AND SUBSECTION (G)(4)A OF THIS SECTION.
6		C. INTEREST ON THE AMOUNTS DESCRIBED IN SUB-PARAGRAPHS A. AND B.
7		COMPOUNDED ANNUALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES:
8		(I) Interest at one-twelfth of the applicable interest rate
9		WILL BE APPLIED TO THE BALANCE OF THE DROP II ACCOUNT AS OF
		THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH DURING THE DROP II PARTICIPATION
10		
11		PERIOD.
12		(II) NO INTEREST WILL BE APPLIED TO ADDITIONS TO THE ACCOUNT
13	(2)	MADE DURING THE CURRENT CALENDAR MONTH.
14	(3)	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT BALANCE. AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, THE COORDINATOR
15		SHALL PROVIDE TO A $DROP$ PARTICIPANT A STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNT BALANCE
16		CREDITED TO THE $DROP$ ACCOUNT AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2).
17	(I) DISABILIT	TY DURING DROP II PARTICIPATION. IF DURING THE PERIOD OF A DROP II
18	PARTICIPANT'S	PARTICIPATION IN DROP II, THE PARTICIPANT REACHES A TERMINATION DATE BY
19	REASON OF TO	OTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1.431A, THE
20	PARTICIPANT,	INDIVIDUALLY, OR BY A REPRESENTATIVE IF THE PARTICIPANT IS UNABLE TO MAKE
21	AN ELECTION I	DUE TO THE DISABILITY, MAY ELECT TO RECEIVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:
22	(1)	THE BENEFIT CALCULATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.431A, BASED UPON THE
23		PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE, IF APPLICABLE, AND
24		AVERAGE COMPENSATION EARNED THROUGH THE TERMINATION DATE AND
25		CALCULATED AS IF THE DROP II PARTICIPANT HAD NOT ELECTED TO PARTICIPATE
26		IN DROP II. A DROP II PARTICIPANT WHO ELECTS THE BENEFIT PROVIDED FOR IN
27		THIS SUBSECTION (I)(1) WILL FORFEIT HIS OR HER DROP II ACCOUNT; OR
28	(2)	THE SUM OF:
29		(A) THE BALANCE OF THE PARTICIPANT'S DROP II ACCOUNT AS OF THE
30		PARTICIPANT'S TERMINATION DATE, PAID IN THE FORM DESCRIBED IN
31		SUBSECTION 1.438A(K)(2) A. OR 1.438A(K)(2) B., PLUS

1		(B)	THE	MONTHLY BENEFIT CALCULATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.431A,
2			BASE	D UPON THE PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE, IF
3			APPLI	CABLE AND AVERAGE COMPENSATION EARNED THROUGH THE DAY
4			BEFO	RE HE OR SHE BECAME A DROP PARTICIPANT.
5	(J) DEATH DU	URING D	ROP II	PARTICIPATION.
6	(1)	IF DU	RING TI	HE PERIOD OF A DROP II PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN DROP II,
7		THE I	PARTICII	PANT REACHES A TERMINATION DATE BY REASON OF DEATH, ONE OF
8		THE F	OLLOW	ING BENEFITS WILL BE PAID:
9		A.	Тне н	PARTICIPANT'S BENEFICIARY WILL RECEIVE:
10			(I)	The general benefit described in subsection 1.439A(a)(1),
11				PLUS
12			(II)	ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE BALANCE OF THE PARTICIPANT'S
13				DROP II ACCOUNT AS OF THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S
14				TERMINATION DATE, PAID IN THE FORM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
15				1.438A(K)(2)A.  or  1.438A(K)(2)B.,  or
16		В.	Тне	PARTICIPANT'S SURVIVING SPOUSE OR SURVIVING CHILDREN, AS
17			APPL	CABLE, WILL RECEIVE:
18			(I)	ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE BALANCE OF THE PARTICIPANT'S
19				DROP II ACCOUNT AS OF THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S
20				TERMINATION DATE, PAID IN THE FORM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
21				1.438A(K)(2)A.  OR  1.438A(K)(2)B., PLUS
22			(II)	THE MONTHLY BENEFIT DETERMINED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
23				1.439A(a)(2) or 1.439A(b) based upon the participant's
24				ACTUAL YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE AND AVERAGE
25				COMPENSATION EARNED THROUGH THE DATE OF DEATH AND
26				CALCULATED AS IF THE DROP II PARTICIPANT HAD NOT ELECTED TO
27				PARTICIPATE IN DROP II.
28		C.	BENE	FITS WILL BE PAID TO THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S SURVIVING SPOUSE
29			OR S	URVIVING CHILDREN ONLY TO THE EXTENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF
30			SUBS	ECTIONS 1.439A(A)(2) AND 1.439A(B)(2) OR 1.439A(B)(3) ARE MET.
31			IF TH	E REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS $1.439A(a)(2)$ AND $1.439A(b)(2)$ OR

1	1	1.439A(B)(3) ARE NOT MET, THE DROP II PARTICIPANT'S SURVIVING
2	S	SPOUSE OR SURVIVING CHILDREN, AS APPLICABLE, WILL RECEIVE THE
3	I	BENEFIT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION $(J)(1)$ .
4	(K) RETIREMENT BENE	FITS OF DROP II PARTICIPANTS. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH
5	FOLLOWING THE DROP	II PARTICIPANT'S TERMINATION DATE, THE DROP II PARTICIPANT, OR TO
6	THE DROP II PARTIC	IPANT'S BENEFICIARY, IF THE PARTICIPANT HAS DIED BEFORE BENEFITS
7	COMMENCE, SHALL BE F	ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS UNDER THE PLAN:
8	(1) Months	Y INCOME. A MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME DETERMINED IN
9	ACCORD	ANCE WITH SECTION 1.428A OR 1.442A, ADJUSTED FOR UNUSED SICK
10	LEAVE, I	PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 1.428A(C).
11	$(2) \qquad DROP$	PAYMENT. THE AMOUNT ACCRUED IN THE PARTICIPANT'S DROP II
12	ACCOUN	T, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (H) AT THE END OF THE
13	DROP I	I PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION, IN THE FORM OF:
14	Α.	An eligible rollover distribution, pursuant to section 1.444A; or
15	В.	A LUMP SUM DISTRIBUTION, REDUCED BY ANY WITHHOLDING TAXES
16	I	REMITTED TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OR OTHER TAXING
17	A	AUTHORITY.
18	С.	The normal form of monthly benefit specified in section $1.428A$ if
19	7	THE PARTICIPANT'S MONTHLY INCOME IS PAYABLE IN THE NORMAL FORM OF
20	N	MONTHLY BENEFIT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 1.428A AND THE FORM OF
21	A	ANNUITY SELECTED SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FORM ELECTED FOR
22	7	THE BASE PENSION AMOUNT; OR
23	D.	THE FORM OF MONTHLY BENEFIT ELECTED BY THE $\overline{ m DROP}$ II PARTICIPANT IN
24	A	ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1.442A WITH RESPECT TO THE DROP II
25	I	PARTICIPANT'S MONTHLY INCOME AND THE FORM OF ANNUITY SELECTED
26	S	SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FORM ELECTED FOR THE BASE PENSION
27	A	AMOUNT.
28	(L) EMPLOYMENT OF	CHIEF OF POLICE AND CHIEF, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES FOLLOWING
29	CONCLUSION OF DROP	II PARTICIPATION.
30	(1) IF THE C	CHIEF OF POLICE OR THE CHIEF, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ("CHIEF") IS A
31	DROP I	I PARTICIPANT, THE CHIEF MAY REMAIN IN THE EMPLOY OF THE COUNTY AS

1		THE CHIEF BEYOND THE LAST DAY OF DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD WITH THE
2		WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE.
3	(2)	The compensation of the Chief during any full calendar month of
4		EMPLOYMENT AS THE CHIEF, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT DURING AND AFTER HIS OR
5		HER DROP I OR DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE
6		DETERMINATION OF AVERAGE COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 1.406A(F).
7	(3)	THE COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF DURING AND AFTER HIS OR HER DROP I OR
8		DROP II PARTICIPATION PERIOD SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE DETERMINATION
9		OF HIS OR HER DROP I OR DROP II ACCOUNT BALANCE
10	(M) ADJUSTM	ENT FOR MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS. THE BENEFITS PAYABLE PURSUANT TO
11	THIS SECTION	1.438A SHALL BE ADJUSTED, IF NECESSARY, TO CONFORM TO THE LIMITATIONS ON
12	THE ACCRUAL	OF BENEFITS PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.433A.
13		
14	Section 2. An	d Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that
15	this Act shall	become effective 61 days after its enactment.