

HOUSE BILL 344

K4, K1

7lr1436
CF 7lr1435

By: **Delegate Lierman**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2017

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Retirement and Pension System – Disability Retirement and Workers’**
3 **Compensation Benefits – Offsets**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting ordinary disability retirement benefits paid under the State
5 Retirement and Pension System from the requirement to be offset by related
6 workers’ compensation benefits; repealing the requirement for the Board of Trustees
7 for the State Retirement and Pension System to reduce accidental or special
8 disability retirement benefits by related workers’ compensation benefits; requiring
9 the Workers’ Compensation Commission to reduce workers’ compensation benefits
10 by related accidental or special disability retirement benefits under certain
11 circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to offsets of disability
12 retirement benefits and workers’ compensation benefits.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Labor and Employment
15 Section 9–610
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2016 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing
19 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
20 Section 29–118
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Labor and Employment**

26 9–610.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) (1) Except for benefits [subject to an offset under § 29–118] **PAID FOR AN ORDINARY DISABILITY RETIREMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 29–105 THROUGH 29–108** of the State Personnel and Pensions Article, **AND SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION**, if a statute, charter, ordinance, resolution, regulation, or policy, regardless of whether part of a pension system, provides a benefit to a covered employee of a governmental unit or a quasi–public corporation that is subject to this title under § 9–201(2) of this title or, in case of death, to the dependents of the covered employee, payment of the benefit by the employer satisfies, to the extent of the payment, the liability of the employer and the Subsequent Injury Fund for payment of similar benefits under this title.

(2) If a benefit paid under paragraph (1) of this subsection is less than the benefits provided under this title, the employer, the Subsequent Injury Fund, or both shall provide an additional benefit that equals the difference between the benefit paid under paragraph (1) of this subsection and the benefits provided under this title.

(3) The computation of an additional benefit payable under paragraph (2) of this section shall be done at the time of the initial award and may not include any cost of living adjustment after the initial award.

(b) (1) If federal law provides benefits for an individual who is a covered employee of the Military Department of the State under § 9–215 of this title that are equal to or greater than the benefits provided by this title, the covered employee is not entitled to benefits under this title.

(2) If federal law provides benefits for a covered employee of the Military Department of the State that are less than the benefits provided by this title, the State and its insurer shall provide an additional benefit that equals the difference between the benefit provided by federal law and the similar benefit provided by this title.

(c) (1) The Commission may:

(i) determine whether any benefit provided by the employer is equal to or greater than any benefit provided for in this title; and

(ii) make an award against the employer or the Subsequent Injury Fund or both to provide an additional benefit that equals the difference between the benefit provided by the employer and the benefits required by this title.

(2) A claim that comes under this section is subject to the continuing powers and jurisdiction of the Commission.

(D) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “ACCIDENTAL OR SPECIAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT” MEANS A RETIREMENT BENEFIT PAID IN

1 ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 29–109 THROUGH 29–111 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND
2 PENSIONS ARTICLE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE RETROACTIVE BENEFIT PAYMENTS.

3 (II) “ACCIDENTAL OR SPECIAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT
4 BENEFIT” DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT UNDER TITLE 29,
5 SUBTITLE 4 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.

6 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL REDUCE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
7 BENEFITS BY ANY RELATED ACCIDENTAL OR SPECIAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT
8 BENEFIT IF THE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BENEFITS:

9 (I) ARE PAID OR PAYABLE WHILE THE RETIREMENT BENEFIT IS
10 PAID OR PAYABLE; AND

11 (II) ARE FOR AN ACCIDENTAL PERSONAL INJURY ARISING OUT
12 OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE RETIREE’S EMPLOYMENT BY A COVERED EMPLOYER.

13 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

14 [29–118.

15 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, this section applies to
16 a retiree and any designated beneficiary.

17 (2) (i) This section does not apply to:

18 1. a retiree of a participating governmental unit, or a
19 designated beneficiary of that retiree; or

20 2. a retiree of the Employees’ Pension System or the
21 Employees’ Retirement System who receives a disability retirement benefit as a former
22 employee of a county board of education or the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore
23 City, or a designated beneficiary of that retiree.

24 (ii) A retiree described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, or a
25 designated beneficiary of that retiree is subject to § 9–610 of the Labor and Employment
26 Article.

27 (b) (1) The Board of Trustees shall reduce an accidental or special disability
28 retirement benefit by any related workers’ compensation benefits paid or payable after the
29 effective date of retirement if the workers’ compensation benefits:

30 (i) are paid or payable while a pension is paid or payable; and

(ii) are for an accidental personal injury arising out of and in the course of the retiree's employment by a participating employer.

(2) A retirement allowance may not be reduced:

(i) to be less than the sum of the retiree's annuity and the amount authorized to be deducted for health insurance premiums; or

(ii) for workers' compensation benefits that are reimbursements for legal fees, medical expenses, or other payments made to third parties and not to the retiree.

(c) The retirement allowance to be reduced under this section is the retirement allowance at retirement without any cost-of-living adjustment and is retroactive.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.