

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE BILL 474*

Short Title: Amend Mecklenburg Law Enforce. Pension Fund. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; Earle, Carney, C. Wilson, Cunningham, and McMahan.

Referred to: Pensions and Retirement.

March 13, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMERGENCY PENSION FUND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 709 of the 1965 Session Laws and Chapter 305 of the 1967 Session Laws are repealed.

SECTION 2. Chapter 446 of the Public-Local Laws of 1931 reads as rewritten:

"Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "The Emergency ~~and~~ Pension Fund for Sworn Law Enforcement Officers of Mecklenburg County", ~~and County.~~" This act shall apply to all ~~law enforcement officers except as otherwise provided herein~~ sworn law enforcement officers employed by any city, county, or town law enforcement agency in Mecklenburg County engaged in the enforcement of the criminal laws of the State of North Carolina within the County of Mecklenburg- Mecklenburg who are killed or permanently injured while in the discharge of their official duties.

Sec. 2. "Law enforcement officers" shall be deemed to include all State-certified sworn peace officers employed in any city, county, or town law enforcement agency in Mecklenburg County who are required by the terms of their employment to give their full time to the enforcement of laws, the preservation of perfect order, the protection of life and property property, and the detection and prevention of crime and such special or part time peace officers as may be killed or permanently injured while in the actual discharge of official duties as such officers: Provided, such officers, in order to share in the benefits provided for in this act, shall register with the Officers Relief board provided for on blanks to be furnished for that purpose and in a manner to be prescribed by said board giving such information as to the duty of employment, etc., that may be prescribed by said board. ~~crime.~~ "Law enforcement officers" shall also be deemed to

1 include any reserve officer of an agency of Mecklenburg County and any detention
2 officer employed by the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County.

3 Sec. 3. That the Mayor of the City of Charlotte, the Chief of Police of the City of
4 Charlotte, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the Chairman of the Mecklenburg
5 County Board of Commissioners, the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, ~~the Chief of~~
6 ~~Rural Police~~ or their designees, and their successors in office be and they are hereby
7 constituted members ex officio of a board to be known as "~~The Officers Relief Board of~~
8 ~~Mecklenburg County~~", "The Emergency Pension Fund for Sworn Law Enforcement
9 Officers of Mecklenburg County", to administer the provisions of this act and said
10 board shall elect its own chairman and appoint an officer of the Board to be known as
11 "Commissioner of the Emergency Pension Fund for Sworn Law Enforcement Officers
12 of the County of Mecklenburg", Mecklenburg County", who shall also act as Secretary
13 and Treasurer of the Board and shall act under the instructions of the Board in all
14 matters pertaining to the administration of this act. And the Board shall require the
15 Secretary and Treasurer to give good and sufficient bond, the amount to be determined
16 in the discretion of the Board, for the proper performance of his duties as such. The
17 premium of said bond shall be paid out of the fund herein provided for. Each ex officio
18 member of the board may appoint an employee of the member's agency to act as the
19 member's designee. The designee shall have the authority to cast a binding vote on
20 behalf of the ex officio member.

21 Sec. 4. ~~That in order to provide funds for "The Emergency Pension Fund of the~~
22 ~~County of Mecklenburg" herein set out, there shall be taxed in the bill of costs in all~~
23 ~~criminal cases in any Court other than that of Justice of Peace wherein there is a~~
24 ~~conviction or a plea of guilty, a fee of one (\$1.00) dollar to be known as "The~~
25 ~~Emergency and Pension Fee" and the same shall be collected by the Clerk of the City~~
26 ~~Recorder's Court, the Clerk of the County Recorder's Court and the Clerk of the~~
27 ~~Superior Court and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the "Officers Relief Board of~~
28 ~~Mecklenburg County" or in cases of appeal from said City Recorder's Court or County~~
29 ~~Recorder's Court to the Superior Court, the Clerk of the Superior Court shall collect said~~
30 ~~fees and pay the same to the Treasurer of the "Officers Relief Board of Mecklenburg~~
31 ~~County." All money collected by the Clerk of the City Recorder's Court, Clerk of the~~
32 ~~County Recorder's Court shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the "Officers Relief~~
33 ~~Board of Mecklenburg County" once each week and all of said money collected by the~~
34 ~~Clerk of the Superior Court shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the "Officers Relief~~
35 ~~Board of Mecklenburg County" on the first day of each and every month and they shall~~
36 ~~accompany such remittance with a detailed and itemized statement of the cases in which~~
37 ~~said funds have been collected, the blank forms for said statement shall be furnished by~~
38 ~~the "Officers Relief Board of Mecklenburg County" herein provided for. In all cases~~
39 ~~where the defendant is committed to the roads, the fee herein provided shall not be~~
40 ~~charged against said defendant where said defendant serves the sentence imposed by the~~
41 ~~Court and it is further provided that the one dollar (\$1.00) fee hereinbefore set out shall~~
42 ~~not be collected in cases of conviction or plea of guilty for the violation of the traffic or~~
43 ~~highway laws by use of a motor vehicle where the punishment provided by the Statute~~
44 ~~is not in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00) fine or thirty days (30) imprisonment; the said~~

1 fee shall be collected in all other cases for violation of said laws where the punishment
2 fixed by the Statute is in excess of the penalties herein before mentioned; Provided
3 further, that where the defendant is convicted on more than one charge, the fee
4 hereinbefore provided for shall only be taxed in the cost in one conviction.

5 Sec. 5. The funds accumulated under this act shall be known as the "Emergency and
6 The Emergency Pension Fund of the County of Mecklenburg", ~~for Sworn Law~~
7 Enforcement Officers of Mecklenburg County", and shall be used as a fund for all
8 arresting law enforcement officers, as defined in section two hereof, and their families,
9 under the following terms and conditions, that is to say: ~~If an officer while in the actual~~
10 ~~performance of his duties shall become disabled, there shall be paid to him a sum not in~~
11 ~~excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). and a monthly pension while so disabled not~~
12 ~~in excess of seventy five dollars (\$75.00) per month, and the board may pay to such~~
13 ~~disabled officer an additional sum not in excess of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month~~
14 ~~for each child or dependent under the age of eighteen years while the disability of such~~
15 ~~officers may exist and while the said officer shall live; and in case of death resulting~~
16 ~~while in the actual performance of his duties, if the officer shall be married, the board~~
17 ~~may pay immediately to the widow of such officer a sum not in excess of five hundred~~
18 ~~dollars (\$500.00), and may further pay a sum not in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per~~
19 ~~month for said widow during widowhood, and, in addition thereto, the board may pay~~
20 ~~the said widow for the support of any dependent children she may have, a sum not in~~
21 ~~excess of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month for each child until said child shall reach~~
22 ~~the age of eighteen (18) years; and in case of death resulting while in the actual~~
23 ~~performance of official duties under this act where the individual or officer as herein~~
24 ~~defined may be unmarried, the board may pay to the nearest dependent next of kin of~~
25 ~~deceased a sum not in excess of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or in lieu thereof the~~
26 ~~board may pay the funeral expenses of deceased not in excess of five hundred (\$500.00)~~
27 ~~dollars; and it is further the true intent, meaning and purpose of this act that the board~~
28 ~~shall be empowered hereunder, in its discretion, to pay any amount less than the~~
29 ~~maximum enumerated, and said board may refuse to make a payment of any amount in~~
30 ~~any case in any or all of the classes herein enumerated.~~conditions:

- 31 (1) If a law enforcement officer is killed while in the actual performance
32 of the officer's duties, then the Board may pay from the Fund the
33 amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as a death benefit to the
34 surviving spouse of the deceased officer. If the law enforcement
35 officer is not married at the time of death, the board may pay the death
36 benefit to the nearest dependent next of kin of the deceased; or
37 (2) If the law enforcement officer is permanently and totally physically
38 disabled due to a physical injury received in the actual performance of
39 the officer's duties, then the Board may pay from the Fund to the law
40 enforcement officer the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). In
41 the event the law enforcement officer is temporarily and totally
42 physically disabled due to a physical injury received in the
43 performance of the officer's duties, then the Board may pay from the
44 Fund to the law enforcement officer a disability supplement of five

1 hundred dollars (\$500.00) a month during the time that the officer is
2 temporarily and totally disabled up to a maximum of ten thousand
3 dollars (\$10,000). In any event, a temporarily or permanently
4 physically disabled law enforcement officer shall not receive more
5 than that ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

6 (3) If a law enforcement officer is killed while in the actual performance
7 of the officer's duties or is permanently and totally disabled, then the
8 Board may award college scholarships to the officer's children up to a
9 maximum amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Such
10 scholarships may be awarded if the child is between the ages of 17 and
11 22 and has been accepted or is attending a fully accredited college or
12 university.

13 Sec. 6. The Board created under the provisions of this act shall serve without
14 compensation. The Secretary and Treasurer of said Board shall receive such
15 compensation as may be provided by the Board not to exceed the sum of fifty (\$50.00)
16 dollars per month, and the said Board shall have full power and authority to pay all
17 expenses for administering this act including the purchase of supplies, legal advice, etc.,
18 out of the fund provided for herein. The Board shall have authority to make such rules,
19 regulations and provisions as may be necessary to the proper administration of this act.
20 The Board may retain an investment firm to manage the Fund and upon a unanimous
21 vote of the Board may increase the amount of the maximum lump sum payments by up
22 to ten percent (10%) once every five years.

23 ~~Sec. 7. Any person or officer of Court covered by the provisions of this act who~~
24 ~~shall fail to comply with the provisions of this act and make proper accounting and~~
25 ~~remittance to the Treasurer designated by the Board, or to the Secretary, funds collected~~
26 ~~under and by virtue of this act, as provided herein, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,~~
27 ~~and, upon conviction, shall be fined or imprisoned, in the discretion of the Court.~~

28 Sec. 8. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed, and
29 if any section hereof be decided by the Courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same
30 shall not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part
31 decided to be unconstitutional or invalid.

32 Sec. 9. This act shall be in force and effect from and after the first day of June, one
33 thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, but disbursement of funds in accordance with the
34 act, except for necessary expenses of administration, and organization, shall not
35 commence until the first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one."

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.