

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 20 OF ACT 491 OF 1921, AS AMENDED [ARK. STAT. 19-2227], TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Act 491 of 1921, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statute 19-2204, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. (a)(1) Any pension fund member who has served in a fire department in the State of Arkansas for a period of twenty (20) years or more, the last five years of which shall have been consecutive, shall be entitled to be retired and receive from the fund a monthly pension equal to one-half (1/2) of the salary attached to the rank he held as a volunteer, part-paid or full paid members.

(2) The term salary shall mean recurring pays which are received for the fireman's regularly scheduled work week and shall not include payments for unused accrued sick leave or annual leave, or the case value of any non-recurring or unusual remunerations.

(3) Any fireman who shall have completed the period of service as provided for in this section shall receive from the Board a certificate showing that he has completed the term of service required and is entitled to participate in all the benefits provided for in this Act upon compliance with and subject to all the other terms and conditions herein, whether he sever his connections or continue in service at the expiration of the time as set out above, and the right to participate in the fund shall become a vested right and shall not be lost by the termination of his services with or without cause.

(b) Any full-paid fireman who is already retired shall not receive less than \$250 per month.

(c)(1) Any full-paid fireman who has more than twenty (20) years of service at the time of retirement shall be entitled to receive the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month in addition to his regular retirement pay for each full year worked over and above twenty (20) years, but in no instance shall he receive more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month in addition to his regular benefit.

Any volunteer or part-paid fireman who has more than twenty (20) years of service at the time of retirement shall be entitled to receive the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) per month in addition to his regular retirement pay for each full year worked over and above twenty (20) years, but in no instance shall he receive more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month in addition to his regular benefits.

(2) The increase in benefit levels provided in this subsection for service beyond twenty (20) years shall apply only to those firemen who first retire on or after January 1, 1987.

(d) A volunteer or part-paid fireman who becomes a full-paid member of his fire department shall be eligible to retire as a full-paid member only if he shall have been employed as a full-paid member for a period of at least five (5) years immediately prior to his retirement."

SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of Section 9 of Act 250 of 1937 as amended, the same being Arkansas Statute 19-1809(b), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) Any policeman who has more than twenty (20) years of service at

time of retirement shall be entitled to receive the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month in addition to his regular retirement pay for each full year worked over and above twenty (20) years, but in no instance shall he receive more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month in addition to his regular benefit.

(2) The increase in benefit levels provided in this subsection for service beyond twenty (20) years shall apply only to those firemen and policemen who first retire on or after January 1, 1987."

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: April 8, 1987
