

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §20-18-22

## **§20-18-22. Award and benefits for disability - Due to other causes.**

(a) Any member with 10 or more years of contributing service and who after the effective date of this article and during covered employment: (1) Has been or becomes totally or partially disabled from any cause other than those set forth in §20-18-21 of this code and not due to vicious habits, intemperance, or willful misconduct on his or her part; and (2) in the opinion of two physicians based on a medical examination, one of whom shall be named by the board and one by the member, he or she is by reason of the disability unable to perform adequately the duties required of a Natural Resources Police Officer, is entitled to receive and shall be paid from the fund in monthly installments the compensation set forth in either subsection (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) If the member is totally disabled, he or she shall receive 66 and two-thirds percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the disability award, or the shorter period, if the member has not worked 12 months.

(c) If the member is partially disabled, he or she shall receive 33 and one-third percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the disability award, or the shorter period, if the member has not worked 12 months.

(d) If the member remains disabled until attaining 60 years of age, then the member shall receive the retirement benefit provided in §20-18-18 and §20-18-19 of this code with the accrued benefit being computed with the multiplier in effect as of his or her effective date of retirement.

(e) The board shall propose legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code concerning member disability payments so as to ensure that the payments do not exceed 100 percent of the average current salary for the position last held by the member.

(f) The disability benefit payments will begin the first day of the month following termination of employment and receipt of the disability retirement application by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.