

June 15, 2016

Town of Chilmark
Mr. Timothy Carroll, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535

Dear Tim,

The Dukes County Contributory Retirement Board has asked that I write to all Town Administrators and appeal to the governing body of each municipality to accept Chapter 467 of the Acts of 2008, MGL c.32, §3(2)(g) as written below:

This act amends G.L. c. 32, § 3(2)(g), creating a local option that will allow municipalities to elect to place uniformed employees of a municipal or public emergency medical service who are certified at any level by the department of public health as an emergency medical technician in Group 4.

...In a town, acceptance is by vote of the Board of Selectmen.

The emergency medical technicians are currently in Group 1. As a Group 1 employee, there is no mandatory retirement age and maximum age limits for retirement calculations are set 10 years after Group 4 members. EMS professionals are available 24 hours a day; they work all night long, on holidays and during family celebrations to serve our community. They work in stressful and sometimes dangerous conditions and meet the standard set for an earlier retirement age, which was the catalyst for the legislation of Chapter 467. Group 4 members consist of police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, linemen, electrical switch operators and boiler operators.

The Dukes County Contributory Retirement Board requests that the Board of Selectmen review and consider the merits of Chapter 467 of the Acts of 2008 and accept liability for this new classification of certified EMS personnel. This Board issues its support for this transition and hopes the Selectmen will accept this local option. We feel this is a commitment to the

preservation of those men and women that possess the skill, dedication and unique expertise that are found in our local emergency medical services teams.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. McCracken
Executive Director

cc: Ben Retmier