§ 89-y. Twenty-five year retirement plan for firefighters employed by the division of military and naval affairs. a. A member who serves as an airport firefighter apprentice, airport firefighter I, airport firefighter II, airport firefighter III, or training and safety officer and is employed by the division of military and naval affairs shall be eligible to retire pursuant to the provisions of this section. Such eligibility shall be an alternative to the eligibility provisions available under any other plan of this article to which such member is subject.

b. Such member shall be entitled to retire upon the completion of twenty-five years of total creditable service by filing an application therefor in the manner provided for in section seventy of this article.

c. Upon completion of twenty-five years of such service and upon retirement, each such member shall receive a pension which, together with an annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of their accumulated contributions at the time of their retirement and an additional pension which is the actuarial equivalent of the reserved-for-increased-take-home-pay to which they may then be entitled shall be sufficient to provide them with a retirement allowance equal to one-half of their final average salary.

d. As used in this section, "creditable service" shall include any and all services performed as a firefighter apprentice, airport firefighter I, airport firefighter II, airport firefighter III, or training and safety officer employed by the division of military and naval affairs.

e. Credit for service as a paid firefighter or officer of any organized fire department shall also be deemed to be creditable service and shall be included in computing years of total service for retirement pursuant to this section.

f. A member contributing on the basis of this section at the time of retirement, may retire after the completion of twenty-five years of total creditable service. Application therefor may be filed in a manner similar to that provided in section seventy of this article. Upon

completion of twenty-five years of such service and upon retirement, each such member shall receive a pension which, together with an annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of their accumulated contributions at the time of their retirement and an additional pension which is the actuarial equivalent of the reserved-for-increased-take-home-pay to which they may then be entitled shall be sufficient to provide them with a retirement allowance equal to one-half of their final average salary; for service beyond twenty-five years and for non-firefighter service the benefit is increased by one-sixtieth of final average salary for each year of additional service credit.

g. In computing the twenty-five years of total service of a member pursuant to this section full credit shall be given and full allowance shall be made for service of such member in time of war after World War I as defined in section two of this article, provided such member at the time of their entrance into the armed forces was in the service of the state.

h. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a member, who does not retire pursuant to the provisions of this section, from utilizing service which is creditable service pursuant to the provisions of this section for service credit pursuant to the provisions of any other plan of this article to which such member is subject.

i. The provisions of this section shall be controlling notwithstanding any other provision in this article to the contrary.

j. Any member who, on or before the effective date of this section, is a firefighter apprentice, airport firefighter I, airport firefighter II, airport firefighter III, or training and safety officer employed by the division of military and naval affairs may, by filing an election within one year after the effective date of this section, elect to be subject to the provisions of this section. Such election shall be in writing, shall be duly executed and filed with the comptroller and shall be irrevocable.