

(4) An employee whose religious beliefs are opposed to joining or financially supporting any collective bargaining organization is:

(i) Not required to pay a service or representation fee; and

(ii) Required to pay an amount of money as determined in paragraph (2) of this subsection to a nonreligious, nonunion charity or to such other charitable organization as may be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the exclusive representative, and who furnishes to the public school employer and the exclusive representative written proof of such payment.

(5) (i) In Baltimore County, the provisions of this subsection shall apply only to employees who are hired on or after July 1, 1997.

(ii) The provisions of this paragraph apply if an agency or representation fee is negotiated in Baltimore County.

(iii) 1. Subject to the provisions of sub-subparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the employee organization designated as the exclusive representative for the public school employees shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Education of Baltimore County against any and all claims, demands, suits, or any other forms of liability that may arise out of, or by reason of, action taken by the Board for the purpose of complying with any of the agency or representation fee provisions of the negotiated agreement.

2. The Board shall retain without charge to the Board the services of counsel that are designated by the exclusive representative with regard to any claim, demand, suit, or any other liability that may arise out of, or by reason of, action taken by the Board for the purpose of complying with any of the agency or representation fee provisions of the negotiated agreement.

(iv) The employee organization designated as the exclusive representative shall submit to the Board an annual audit from an external auditor that reflects the operational expenses of the employee organization and explains how the representation fee is calculated based on the audit.

(v) 1. The agency or representation fee shall be based only on the expenses incurred by the employee organization in its representation in negotiations, contract administration, including the handling of grievances, and other activities, as required under this section.

2. Any political activities of the employee organization designated as the exclusive representative may not be financed by the funds collected from the agency or representation fee.