

cessor in title of said property the privilege of purchasing said property from said County Commissioners and providing the price thereof.

(*Vetoed.*)

CHAPTER 219.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Sections 706 and 707 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1924 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Penal Institutions—Pensions," making all employees of the Board of Welfare, or of any institution under its control, eligible for pensions under certain conditions and providing the amount of pension which may be paid.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 706 and 707 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1924 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Penal Institutions—Pensions," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

706. Whenever any employee of the Board of Welfare or of any institution under the control or management of the Board of Welfare shall have given meritorious service as such employee for a period of twenty years, of which the last ten years shall have been continuous, or who shall have become permanently disabled and unfitted for active duty due to injury received in such employment arising out of and in the course of his or her employment, he or she, as the case may be, shall, in the discretion of the Board of Welfare, be eligible for retirement and may thereupon make application to the Board of Welfare to be retired; whereupon it shall be the duty of the Director of Welfare to make a prompt and impartial investigation (and upon request of the applicant to give him or her a hearing) as to the merits of such application, and thereafter, if the Board of Welfare shall find the said applicant to be eligible for retirement under the terms of this sub-title, it shall have power, in its discretion, to retire such applicant, and thereafter to pay him or her, during his or her natural life, a monthly salary not to exceed one-half the average monthly salary received by such employee during the year immediately preceding the granting of his or her application for retirement.