

diately preceding his appointment must have been in active service in the National Guard of this State or in the Army or Marine Corps of the United States as a commissioned officer. The Captain of the Naval Brigade shall have been an officer in the Naval Brigade, or must have served as an officer in the United States Navy for at least three years.

Section XXV. Before receiving a commission or being commissioned to a higher grade as a result of promotion every officer below the grade of major must have passed a satisfactory examination before a board as to his fitness for service. All officers will be required to take a physical examination before receiving their commissions.

Section XXVI. Boards of examination shall be appointed by the Governor as Commander-in-Chief, or caused to be appointed by the Commanding officer of the first brigade, and the commanding officer of the naval brigade, as the case may be, and the said boards shall consist of not less than three officers for officers of the line and for officers of the departments or corps the board shall consist of three officers at least one of whom shall be of the department or corps for which the candidate is to be examined. These boards shall inquire into the military, moral qualifications, the general capacity and efficiency of any officer holding a probationary, or permanent, commission, or who may have been elected, or appointed for commission in the Maryland National Guard; and said boards shall have power to take evidence, administer oaths and compel witnesses to attend and testify and produce books and papers, and punish those failing to do so, as is possessed by a general court-martial. The said boards shall convene at the headquarters of the first brigade, or naval brigade, as the case may be, at such times as may be directed by the convening authority. At least two weeks' notice of the date of the sitting shall be given all officers ordered to appear for examination. Within twenty days after such examination said boards shall make a detailed report of their results to the Governor as Commander-in-Chief, and anyone failing to pass such an examination shall not be eligible for a commission in the National Guard of this State, or for promotion therein, for the period of one year from the date of such failure except upon the recommendation of the commanding officer of the regiment, or separate organization, as the case may be. The Governor as Commander-in-Chief may allow an examination to any officer who shall give him a satisfactory excuse for not appear-