

of Maryland, title "Merit System," as enacted by Chapter 41 of the Acts of 1920, be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, to read as follows:

9. Examinations held by the Commissioner to establish lists of persons eligible for appointment may be written or oral or in the form of a demonstration of skill or any combination of these and shall be of a character fairly to test and determine the relative figures and ability of candidates actually to perform the duties of the class of positions to which they seek to be appointed. Any investigation of training and experience and any test of technical knowledge, manual skill or physical fitness that in the judgment of the Commissioner serves to this end may be employed. Examination shall be competitive, free and open to all persons who may be lawfully appointed to any position within the class for which the examination is held, with such limitations as may be specified in the rules by the Commissioner as to age, sex, health, habits, moral character, physical condition, and other qualifications that are in the judgment of the Commissioner prerequisite to the performance of the duties of such positions; provided, however, that the Commissioner may, from time to time, provide for general rules exempting from competitive examinations positions to be filled by unskilled manual laborers, including positions for road patrolmen under the State Roads Commission, and may, if he sees fit, provide in lieu of said competitive examinations such system or systems of registration for said laborers or otherwise as in its judgment will best provide for such positions; and provided further as to all positions that the Commissioner may by his rules give preference in competition for higher classes of positions to classified service employees or to classified service employees of a certain class or classes by giving credit for experience and demonstrated efficiency (not to exceed twenty per centum of all marks) in determining the relative fitness for promotion of such employees. Honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, marines and regularly enlisted army and navy nurses engaged in the service of the United States for a period of not less than sixty days, who were residents of this State at the time of their entry into such service, shall be given special credit for such service in the experience markings of examinations in which they may compete, which shall be equivalent to not less than twenty points on a basis of one hundred.