

from attaching his certificate to a payroll, if a certificate is provided for by rule, in violation of the provisions of this Article. No judgment, decree or other order of any court or of any justice of the peace entered upon the recovery of any such sums for the State shall be entered "satisfied" or "released" except upon the written order of the Attorney-General.

27. This Article may be cited as the Merit System Law; its purpose is to provide candidates for appointment to positions in the classified service after determining by practical tests of the fitness of such candidates for the positions which they seek, without regard to the political or religious opinions or affiliations of such candidates, or of any other standard except the business efficiency of the classified service, and to provide adequate means for the prompt removal from positions in the classified service of all persons therein who may be indolent, incompetent, inefficient, or otherwise unfit to remain therein, and to keep in a workable state the provisions for the promotion of employees as provided in this Article to the end that the same shall be so administered as to attract the best class of candidates to the classified service.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Act shall, for any reason, be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional and invalid, such judgment shall not effect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph or section thereof so found unconstitutional and invalid.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws, in so far as they are inconsistent with this Act, or any of the provisions thereof, are hereby repealed, and especially any provision of law which may conflict with the provisions of this Act for the classification, selection and appointment of employees, including Chapter 224 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1918.

SECTION 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect from and after October 1st, 1920.

Approved March 2, 1920.