

660, 661 and 662, so as to provide for the establishment of an employees' retirement system for the employees of the Maryland House of Correction and the Maryland Penitentiary.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That five new sections be added to Article 27 of Bagby's Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "III. Places of Reformation and Punishment," the said five new sections to follow immediately after Section 657, to be known as Sections 658, 659, 660, 661 and 662, and to read as follows:

658. Whenever any employee of the Maryland House of Correction or the Maryland Penitentiary except the Warden, Chaplains, physicians, dentists, nurses and social workers, shall have given meritorious service as such employee in either or both of said institutions 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, created by Chapter 29 of the Acts of 1922, or its successor or successors, 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 Act, 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 equal to one-half the average monthly salary received by such employee during the year immediately preceding the granting of his or her application for retirement; provided, however, that such payments shall not exceed the rate of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars per year to any one person.

659. Whenever any employee of the Maryland House of Correction or the Maryland Penitentiary except the Warden, Chaplains, physicians, dentists, nurses and social workers, who shall have given meritorious service as such employee in either