

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and being passed by a ye and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 31, 1943.

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CHAPTER 291.

(Senate Bill 222)

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Merit System," said new section to be known as Section 10A, and to follow immediately after Section 10 of said Article, relating to the taking of examinations under the Merit System by persons heretofore or hereafter convicted of crimes.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Merit System", said new section to be known as Section 10A, to follow immediately after Section 10 of said Article, and to read as follows:

10A. No person who has been heretofore or who shall hereafter be convicted of any crime, and who shall have served his sentence or shall have obtained his release by virtue of any pardon, full or conditional, on probation or release by conditional commutation of sentence, or by parole, shall be rendered ineligible, if otherwise qualified, by reason of said conviction, to take the examination mentioned in Section 10 of this Article; provided, however, that no person convicted of crime shall be entitled to the preference given to veterans and that if any such person is, after the taking of any such examinations, certified by