

organization activities, even though no compensation was received therefor.

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, except as hereinafter provided 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. Veterans of the military and naval services of the United States who served sometime during the war with Spain (April 6, 1898, to July 2, 1902) or the first World War (April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918) or the Second World War (September 16, 1940, the date on which the Selective Service Act became effective, to the end of the present hostilities in which the United States is engaged) who have either been honorably discharged or who have received a certificate of satisfactory completion of such service, and who have been bona fide residents of this State for five years or more immediately preceding the date on which such veteran takes any Merit System examination, shall be given special credit for such service; provided, such veterans served a minimum of ninety days in the service of the United States, as aforesaid, or were discharged by reason of a disability incurred in line of duty. Such war veterans who are disabled as the result of their war service shall be given a credit of ten points in all examinations for appointments. Non-disabled veterans shall be given a credit of five points in all examinations for appointment. All such credits shall also be allowed in determining whether any such veteran attains a passing mark in any such examination.

The same preferences extended disabled veterans shall be given to the wives of such veterans as have themselves been