

of Personnel. No employee may be permanently removed except for cause and after an opportunity to be heard in his own defense. Should the discharged employee desire, he may appeal his case to the State Commissioner of Personnel, whose decision shall be final. No employees shall be removed from the classified service because of religious or political opinions or affiliations.

249H.

An employee in a position to be abolished, discontinued, or vacated, because of change in departmental organization, or through stoppage or lack of work, shall be laid off and his name placed on the eligible list for the class of position from which he is laid off, and he shall be re-employed in preference to any eligible person not an employee of the District on or after June 1, 1963, should a vacancy occur in his classified position. The District for disciplinary purposes may suspend an employee for not over thirty days. Each suspension shall be without pay; provided, however, that no employee shall be suspended for such disciplinary purposes over thirty days in any calendar year.

249-I.

Every classified employee shall receive as vacation in each calendar year a leave of absence with pay of one and one-half working days for every month actually worked during the preceding year. In addition to such annual leave any employee shall be entitled to sick leave with pay for not in excess of fifteen working days in any calendar year; provided, however, that if any employee in any calendar year uses less than the full amount of sick leave allowable, such unused leave shall be accumulative up to sixty working days and shall be available to such employee for sick leave at any time. Any employee using three or more consecutive days' sick leave shall present a certificate from a duly licensed physician before receiving any pay for the period of such absence. The District, by rule, may provide for granting leaves of absence for longer periods with pay or with part pay to employees who may be disabled either through injury or illness as a result of or arising from their respective employment, and shall make such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Any unused leave accumulated by any of the employees of the District at the time of the passage of this Act shall be credited to their respective leave records.

249J.

All employees of the District as of June 1, 1963, shall be included in the classified service or Merit System established by this subtitle, without examination.

249K.

Nothing in this subtitle prohibits the District from employing such consulting or other outside engineering services as it deems necessary from time to time.

249L.

Except in the case of temporary and emergency employees as herein provided for, no auditor or disbursing officer of the said