

crime, arrest offenders, protect the rights and property in and upon such premises as fully as a regular police officer of Baltimore City. A record of such appointment shall be kept in the office of the said Commissioner, and any appointments so made may be revoked by the said Commissioner at any time; and the form of badge to be worn by such special police officer shall be prescribed by the said Police Commissioner and, additionally, such special police officers shall wear no uniform which does not have the approval of the Commissioner. Nothing herein shall be intended to permit private detectives licensed under the laws of Maryland to act or be appointed under the provisions of this section as a special police officer.

Members of Department—preservation of status.

542.

(a) The Commissioner may abolish any rank, grade or position in the Department existing on the effective date of this subtitle, but no such abolition shall operate or be construed to operate to authorize any member of the Department to be dismissed therefrom, other than for cause, or to reduce the salary or other pecuniary rights of such member of the Department.

(b) The status of every present and former member of the Department who shall have been or shall have the right to be retired under any of the provisions of Sections 580-596, inclusive, of this title, relating to the Special Fund and Special Fund for Widows, shall in no way be impaired, and nothing in this subtitle shall operate, or be construed to operate in derogation of any such status or right. Should the Commissioner determine to abolish any rank, grade or position in the Department presently or formerly held by any member of the Department entitled to benefits under any of the aforesaid Sections 580-596, or in pursuance of which his widow and/or children may be entitled to benefits, said Commissioner shall simultaneously, by appropriate directive, establish for the rank, grade or position so abolished an equivalent rank, grade or position in active use in the Department, the salary for which shall not be lower than the salary then being paid for such rank, grade or position so abolished. It is the express intention and purpose of this subsection to assure that every member of the Department who shall have been, or shall subsequently have the right to be retired under the aforementioned provisions of Sections 580-596, together with their eligible widows and/or children, shall be entitled to receive, to the extent heretofore required by law, the benefit (for purposes of computing retirement and pension payments to be made to them) of any increase, whenever granted, in the salary of the equivalent rank, grade or position in the Department so established by the Commissioner, as herein provided. **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE BENEFITS UNDER ANY OF THE AFORESAID SECTIONS 580—596 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAFEGUARDS PROVIDED HEREIN AND FROM JULY 1, 1966, SHALL BE THE EXCLUSIVE PROVINCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE.**

(c) Nothing herein shall operate or be construed to operate to impair the seniority rights of any member of the Department existing on the effective date of this subtitle.