

placed in the inactive group, and examinations for such classes shall be held only when there is no eligible list and vacancies occur.

18.

(a) Examinations held by the [Commissioner] *Secretary of Personnel* to establish lists of persons eligible for appointment may be written or oral or in the form of a demonstration of skill or any combination of these and shall be of a character fairly to test and determine the relative [figures [fitness]] *fitness* and ability of candidates actually to perform the duties of the class of positions to which they seek to be appointed. Any investigation of training and experience and any tests of technical knowledge, manual skill or physical fitness that in the judgment of the [Commissioner] *Secretary* serves to this end may be employed.

(c) Examinations 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] *Secretary* 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] *Secretary* prerequisite to the performance of the duties of such positions; provided, however, that the [Commissioner] *Secretary* 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 provide further as to all positions that the [Commissioner] *Secretary* 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 in the second World War (September 16, 1940, the date on which the Selective Service Act became effective, to December 31, 1946, or between June 1, 1950 and June 1, 1953) or who served sometime during 1965, 1966 and 1967 in a military area or zone wherein there is conducted an active military policing operation undertaken by the government of the United States in conjunction with a foreign nation in combating an existing hostile force or element without the continental limits of the United States, its territories or possessions, or who have received, or who are eligible to receive, any of the following medals: (1) the armed forces expeditionary medal established by executive order 10977; (2) the Vietnam service medal established by executive order 11231; or any other service medal established by the President of the United States and which he finds by executive order to be comparable to either (1) or (2) above, 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