

pointments and such appointments shall not be renewed. Provided, however, that for the duration of any war in which the United States may be engaged or of any nationally declared emergency and for such period thereafter as in the discretion of the [Commissioner] *Secretary* with the approval of the Governor, an emergency exists, the [Commissioner] *Secretary* may extend the period of emergency employment when the positions cannot otherwise be filled; no person so employed shall be eligible for membership in the State Employees Retirement System but shall be entitled to the benefits of the workmen's compensation laws.

25.

All county and/or municipal employees of county and/or municipal health departments in this State who were so employed on June 30, 1956, and who, while so employed, apply to the [Commissioner] *Secretary* of Personnel for appointment under the State merit system on or before July 1, 1961, shall be so appointed, and shall be classified in the job classification under the State merit system which is comparable or which most closely compares with their last job classification as a county and/or municipal employee of a county and/or municipal health department of this State. All employees appointed to the State merit system pursuant to this section shall be given credit thereunder for the years of service rendered in said county and/or municipal health departments for the purposes of establishing compensation rates and the basic rates for vacation and sick leave credit earnings. No such employee who has transferred from a county and/or municipal health department to the State merit system shall receive any diminution in compensation solely as a result of such transfer and appointment.

25A.

Any employee of the laboratory of the Baltimore City health department who, while so employed, applies to the [Commissioner] *Secretary* of Personnel for appointment under the State merit system on or before July 1, 1970, shall be so appointed, and without further examination or qualification shall be classified in the job classification under the State merit system which is comparable or which most closely compares with his last job classification as a Baltimore City employee. An employee appointed to the State merit system under this section shall be given credit thereunder for the years of service rendered in Baltimore City for the purposes of establishing retirement and death benefits, compensation rates, including longevity steps, and the basic rates for vacation and sick leave credit earnings. No such employee who has been transferred from the Baltimore City health department to the State merit system shall receive any diminution in compensation solely as a result of such transfer and appointment.

25B.

Any employee of the Baltimore City health department who is engaged in the processing of payments for medical care services in Baltimore City who, while so employed, applies to the [Commissioner] *Secretary* of Personnel for appointment under the State merit system on or before July 1, 1967, shall be so appointed, and without further examination or qualification shall be classified in the job classification under the State merit system which is comparable