

and mental hygiene, who have completed ten years in State service, with additional or supplemental emblems and certificates for each five years of service thereafter.

32A.

(a) The awards program set forth in this section shall be carried out under such regulations and instructions as may be issued by the **[State Commissioner]** *Secretary* of Personnel, who shall annually report the results of the program, with related recommendations to the Governor for transmittal to the General Assembly of Maryland.

[(b)] There is hereby created a board to be known as the State Incentive Awards Board, which shall consist of the State Commissioner of Personnel, who shall be chairman of said Board, one member who shall be appointed by the Governor on nomination by the Maryland Classified Employees Association, Inc., and three members who shall be residents of Maryland experienced in personnel and training procedures, and who shall be appointed by the Governor. All members of said Board, excepting the State Commissioner of Personnel, shall be appointed for terms of four years beginning June 1, 1958. The State Budget Director shall be an ex officio member of said Board, and shall make available to it any financial data desired by the Board in the performance of its functions, as is hereinafter provided. As used in this section, the term "Board" means the State Incentive Awards Board.]

[(c)] (b) As used in this section, the term "department head" means the head of any subdivision, department, commission, board or institution within the classified service of this State, as defined in this article, and the term "employee" shall mean any person who holds a position in the said classified service under the terms of this article.

[(d)] (c) The **[Board]** *Secretary* is hereby authorized to pay cash awards to and to incur necessary expenses for the honorary recognition of officers and employees in the classified service, who, by their suggestions, inventions, superior accomplishments or other personal efforts contribute to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement of State operations or who perform exceptionally meritorious acts or services in the public interest in connection with or related to their official employment.

[(e)] (d) Any employee may forward his suggestion, invention, or accomplishment to the **[Board]** *Secretary* for **[its]** *his* consideration, either personally or through his department head, and upon request shall be granted a personal hearing before the **[Board]** *Secretary*. The **[Board]** *Secretary* shall make a decision upon each such proposal forwarded to **[it]** *him*, and shall mail or deliver **[its]** *his* decision in writing to the head of the department and the employee concerned.

[(f)] (e) Awards under this section may be paid notwithstanding the death or separation from the classified service of the officer or employee concerned, provided that the suggestions, inventions, superior accomplishments, other personal efforts, or special acts or services in the public interest, forming the basis for the awards, are made or rendered while the said officer or employee is employed in the classified service.