

CHAPTER 583

(House Bill 994)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section ~~17(a)~~ and 18(c) and (d) of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume, 1970 Supplement), title "Merit System," to ~~modify the procedure when an eligible veteran is passed over,~~ to modify the periods of military service required for eligibility for veteran's preference, to modify the residence requirement for veteran's preference, to modify the preference given to wives of veterans, and dealing generally with veteran's preference.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections ~~17(a)~~ and SECTION 18(c) and (d) of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume, 1970 Supplement), title "Merit System," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

17.

(a) Whenever a vacancy in any position in the classified service is to be filled, the appointing authority shall make requisition upon the Secretary of Personnel for eligibles. The Secretary shall thereupon certify to the appointing authority the names and addresses of five persons standing highest upon the eligible list for the class in which the position is found, or if there be less than five, then such name or names as may be on such list, and said appointing authority shall appoint one of said persons so certified to said position. An appointing authority shall not appoint a non-resident of the State from any list where there is a resident of the State with the same or a better standing on the list. An appointing officer who passes over a veteran eligible as provided in Section 18 of this article and selects a nonveteran *with the same or lower examination score* shall file with the Secretary of Personnel [a substantial] *his* reason for so doing, which shall become a part of the record of such veteran eligible, and shall be made available upon request to the veteran or his designated representatives; the Secretary of Personnel is directed to determine the sufficiency of such submitted reason and, if found insufficient, shall require such appointing officer to submit more detailed information in support thereof; if the reason so received be deemed insufficient by the Secretary of Personnel, then, he shall order the employment of such veteran by such appointing officer, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the veteran eligible or to his designated representatives; in case there is no eligible list for the class, the Secretary shall forthwith call an examination, and shall post the eligible list resulting therefrom within sixty days from the time of holding said examination, and in case no eligible list results, the Secretary shall repeat such call and continue to hold examinations until an eligible list results. If necessary to prevent the stoppage of public business, but not otherwise, the Secretary may authorize temporary appointment as prescribed in Section 22 of this article.