

(c) All employees of the boards of supervisors EXCEPT JUDGES OF ELECTIONS as of December 31, 1971, as well as other applicants for positions held by such employees, shall no later than ~~July 1,~~ JANUARY 31, 1972, be administered a competitive qualifying examination by the Secretary of Personnel. Any incumbent employee, who passes the examination ~~and ranks within the top five (5) qualifying eligibles,~~ shall be retained in his position. Any existing employee, who fails to pass the examination ~~or who fails to rank within the top five (5) qualifying eligibles,~~ shall be terminated from employment with the board no later than ~~August~~ MARCH 1, 1972, and a vacancy shall be deemed to exist.

(d) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, the Secretary of Personnel shall certify to the board of supervisors a list of five (5) qualified eligibles for such vacancy, or such lesser number as may be on the eligible list. The board of supervisors shall select from the list a person to fill the vacancy, who shall hold the position for the probationary period established by the Secretary of Personnel.

(E) IN THOSE COUNTIES WHICH HAVE ADMINISTERED QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS TO INCUMBENT EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS, UNDER A LOCAL MERIT SYSTEM, WHICH EXAMINATIONS ARE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL, IT SHALL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE INCUMBENT EMPLOYEES TO BE RE-EXAMINED FOR QUALIFICATION UNDER THE PROVISION OF THIS SECTION AND THE EMPLOYEES SHALL BE RETAINED IN THEIR POSITION AND CONSIDERED TO BE QUALIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(F) IN ANY COUNTY WHERE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTY ARE COVERED BY A MERIT SYSTEM, THE BOARD FOR THAT COUNTY MAY CHOOSE, BY RESOLUTION DATED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 1971, TO APPLY TO BE COVERED BY THE LOCAL MERIT SYSTEM RATHER THAN THE STATE CLASSIFIED SERVICE. THE AFORESAID RESOLUTION OF APPLICATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS. THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE LOCAL MERIT SYSTEM IS A BONA FIDE ONE, PROVIDING APPROPRIATE STANDARDS FOR QUALIFICATION, EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1971, HE SHALL COMMUNICATE HIS DECISION TO THE BOARD WHICH MADE AFORESAID APPLICATION AND TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS. IF THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL RULES THAT THE LOCAL SYSTEM MEETS APPROPRIATE STANDARDS, THE BOARD'S APPLICATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LOCAL RATHER THAN STATE CLASSIFIED SERVICE SHALL BE DEEMED APPROVED AND, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1972, ALL PERMANENT EMPLOYEES OF SAID BOARD SHALL BE IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE LOCAL PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

(G) ALL EMPLOYEES WHO ELECT TO TRANSFER TO THE LEAVE SYSTEM OF THE STATE SHALL BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR PRIOR SERVICE WITH SUCH PRIOR EMPLOYER FOR