

Volume), title "Clerks of Court," COURTS," subtitle "General Duties of Clerks," to place employees of the Office of the Clerk of Court in Washington County in the State Merit System as of a certain date, to provide that such employees shall not suffer diminution of salary or loss of benefits and shall receive credit for purposes of the State employees' pension system and making this Act contingent upon the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the Clerk of Court in Washington County shall be appointed rather than elected. AND MAKING THIS ACT SUBJECT TO A CONTINGENCY.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 24 of Article 17 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume), title "Clerks of Court," COURTS," subtitle "General Duties of Clerks," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

24.

(a) The State Comptroller, on application of the clerk of the court in any county or the clerk of any of the courts in Baltimore City, or on his own initiative, shall have the authority and power to fix the compensation or salary of all of the employees in the office of any of said clerks, which compensation or salary is paid by the State or out of the fees of such office; provided, however, that in no event shall any compensation or salary be fixed at an amount less than that being paid such employee or employees on July 1, 1945, whether such salary be fixed by general or local law or otherwise. Provided, however, that on or after July 1, 1955, the State Comptroller shall allow and pay a salary increase of \$1,500.00 per year to each chief deputy clerk of the several clerks of court in Baltimore City. Said increase shall be based upon and to be in addition to the compensation or salary received by each such chief deputy clerk immediately prior to July 1, 1955. Provided, however, that on or after July 1, 1957, the State Comptroller shall allow and pay a salary increase of \$500.00 per year to each of the nonelected employees of the civil and criminal courts in Baltimore City. On and after July 1, 1965, the State Comptroller shall allow and pay a salary increase to each of the nonelected employees of the civil and criminal courts in Baltimore City and of the circuit courts in the counties commensurate with those granted to State employees.

(b) *In Washington County, all employees of the Office of the Clerk of Court who has* HAVE been so employed for a period of not less than six months as of January 1, 1973, shall be included in the classified service of the State and subject generally to the rights, duties and procedures applicable under Article 64A of the Code, title "Merit System," without further examination or qualification, and without diminution of salary or loss of any benefits to which entitled prior to January 1, 1973. All employees who similarly become subject to the State employees' pension system under Article 73B of this Code shall be credited with all prior service rendered Washington County to which they were entitled prior to January 1, 1973 for purposes of retirement and death benefits and rates of contribution under Article 73B.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect contingent upon the adoption of an amendment to Section 25 26 of