

(a) After consultation with appointing authorities, the Secretary of Personnel shall prepare and recommend to the Governor a pay plan for all classes of positions in both the classified and unclassified service to the end that all positions in [such] THE services involving comparable duties, experience, responsibilities and authority shall be paid comparable salaries in accordance with the relative value of the services to be performed. In establishing rates of pay, the Secretary shall give consideration to experience, the prevailing rates of pay for the services performed, and for comparable services in public and private employment, living costs, maintenance or other benefits received by employees, and the State's financial condition and policies. [Such] THE pay plan shall take effect and shall have the force and effect of law after approval by the Governor, at the time the next State budget takes effect, if funds for [such] THE pay plan are provided therein. [Amendments thereto may, from time to time be recommended by the Secretary and when approved by the Governor and so included in the next State budget shall have the force of law in the same manner as if they had been originally incorporated in the schedule.] AMENDMENTS TO THE PAY PLAN MAY BE MADE FROM TIME TO TIME FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES OF POSITIONS WHEN RECOMMENDED BY THE SECRETARY AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR AND SO PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH JANUARY. THE AMENDMENTS WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THE NEXT STATE BUDGET IF FUNDS ARE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary [hereinbefore,] and solely in cases of acute emergency, amendments may be made from time to time in the pay plan to take effect at any time prior to the effective date of the next State budget, if the amendment is necessary in order to procure or to retain in the State service, essential career administrative employees, performing executive functions, or essential professional or technical employees, and upon approval of the Board of Public Works, after recommendation by the Secretary, shall have the force of law, in the same manner as if they had been originally incorporated in the schedule. Each employee in the classified and in the unclassified service shall be paid at one of the rates set forth in the pay plan for the grade or class of positions in which he is employed. The pay plan shall be used by the Governor in the preparation and submission of his budget. Provided, [however,] that positions upon the faculties of the University of Maryland, State colleges and Morgan State College, all registrars and librarians designated as holding faculty rank by the respective boards of trustees of the State colleges, St. Mary's Female Seminary, Morgan State College and University of Maryland, teachers, principals, directors of education and supervisors of vocational education on the staffs of