

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 24A and ~~[[51(b) (1)]]~~ 51(a), (b), (f), (h), (i), (j), (l), and (m) of Article 64A - Merit System, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 64A - Merit System

24A.

A State agency may not enter into a consultant contract with any person who has left State employment, other than by reason of retirement, until the person has been out of State employment for a period of one year. The term "consultant contract" for the purpose of this [subsection] SECTION shall be limited to a contract with a corporation, partnership, or other entity in which the former State employee is more than a 10 percent beneficial owner, or director, or officer.

51.

(a) For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following indicated meanings:

(1) "Executive agency" means an executive department or agency in the executive branch of State government, including all offices thereof directly responsible to the Governor.

(2) ["Flexible hours employment" means permanent part-time employment, as for example, four hours per work day or, two, three or four days per workweek, and includes such other arrangements as the Secretary establishes consistent with the policy set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b).] PERMANENT PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT MEANS WORKING ON NOT FEWER THAN TWO DAYS PER WORKWEEK.

(3) "Workweek" means [a minimum of 15 hours of work per week] NOT FEWER THAN 17 3/4 HOURS NOR MORE THAN 30 HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK.

(4) "Secretary" means the "Secretary of Personnel."

[[51]].

(b) (1) It is the policy of the State that, unless adjudged by the Secretary to be in conflict with efficient performance by the State personnel force, at least one percent of the positions at each and all levels in all executive agencies shall be available on a ~~[[flexible hours]]~~ PART-TIME employment basis for persons