

(8) Provide for the execution of surety bonds for every employee or officer entrusted with funds or property; [and]

(9) Keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings and every rule or regulation or order issued or adopted[.]; AND

(10) ASSIGN TO THE DISTRICTS SUCH CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES AS AUTHORIZED BY THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET OR THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 9-0 be and it is hereby added to Article 64A - Merit System, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 64A - Merit System

9-0.

(A) ANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, WITH CONCURRENCE OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE AND UPON APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL PRIOR TO JULY 1, ~~1978~~ 1979, MAY HAVE ALL OF ITS CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY STATE FUNDS AND WHO WERE EMPLOYED ON JUNE 30, ~~1977~~ 1978 AND WHO ARE OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE, APPOINTED UNDER THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM AS EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ASSIGNED TO THE DISTRICT. ANY EMPLOYEE APPOINTED TO THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPOINTED WITHOUT FURTHER EXAMINATION OR QUALIFICATION. EACH EMPLOYEE SHALL BE PLACED IN THAT CLASSIFICATION WHICH IS COMPARABLE TO, OR MOST CLOSELY COMPARES WITH, THE EMPLOYEE'S FORMER POSITION IN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(B) EMPLOYEES SO APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY NOT SUFFER A DIMINUTION OF SALARY OR WAGES, ACCRUED PAID LEAVE WHETHER EARNED OR GRANTED, OR SENIORITY RIGHTS. ANY INCREASE IN SALARY OR WAGES GRANTED SUBSEQUENT TO DECEMBER 31, ~~1976~~ 1977, MAY BE RETAINED UPON APPOINTMENT TO THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE ONLY IF APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL. THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL SHALL CONSIDER THE MONETARY VALUE OF ANY AND ALL OTHER BENEFITS, ENTITLEMENTS, SERVICES OR PREROGATIVES AND, AT HIS DISCRETION AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE MAY TAKE SUCH VALUES OR ANY PORTION THEREOF INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF SALARY UPON APPOINTMENT. ONCE THE RATE OF SALARY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UPON APPOINTMENT, THE EMPLOYEE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE SAME BENEFITS PROVIDED TO CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES ESTABLISHED BY ARTICLE 64A OF THE CODE. FUNDING FOR THESE POSITIONS MAY BE ON A COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

(C) PERSONNEL WHO ARE EMPLOYED ON OR AFTER JULY 1,