

of trustees;] the Commission on Artistic Property; the Purchasing Bureau, and such other functions, agencies, commissions, boards, committees, councils or units of government as may hereafter pursuant to law be declared to be part of the Department of General Services. The Department of General Services shall not have a board of review, and § 3C of this article shall be inapplicable to the Department of General Services.

Article 96 1/2 - Veterans

19.

(a) The Maryland Veterans Commission may acquire sites in this State to be used to establish cemeteries for the interment of Maryland veterans of the United States armed forces and for next of kin of eligible veterans. The approval of the local governing body of the county in which a proposed site is located, the approval of that county's delegation in the Maryland General Assembly, and the approval of the Board of Public Works must all be obtained prior to any acquisition of land for this purpose. The Maryland Veterans Commission is hereby empowered to receive any lands granted to the State or any of its political subdivisions. Priorities shall be given to those lands which are adjacent to or have a proximity to national memorial battle sites.

(b) The Veterans Commission shall supervise, maintain, and control veterans' cemeteries established under this section, and it may employ necessary personnel for this purpose, with the salaries of required personnel to be provided in the annual State budget. All employees shall be under the State Merit System as provided in Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

(C) THE WASHINGTON CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE MARYLAND VETERANS COMMISSION.

[(c)] (D) (1) Any veteran who received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States shall be eligible for burial in a State veterans' cemetery, if the veteran was a legal resident of the State for 20 years, or if the veteran was a legal resident of the State when the veteran entered the armed forces or when the veteran died.

(2) The Maryland Veterans' Commission may waive the 20-year requirement, if, in the judgment of the Commission, there are compelling reasons to do so.

[(d)] (E) Any qualified veteran, or next of kin, may apply for a burial plot in a state veterans' cemetery by submitting a request to the Maryland Veterans Commission on forms to be supplied by the Commission. The Veterans