

15.

(b) In supervising and directing the affairs of the Department and in exercising the powers referred to in the preceding subsection, the authority of the Superintendent shall include, but shall not be limited to, the powers:

(5) To determine and establish such ranks and grades and, in accordance with the [merit system] PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL ARTICLE THAT GOVERN CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES, such civilian classifications as [he] THE SUPERINTENDENT may deem necessary and appropriate;

17.

(a) The Superintendent shall, within the limits of any appropriation made for such purpose, appoint such employees as are deemed necessary by [him] THE SUPERINTENDENT for the efficient administration of the Department. All appointments shall be made from a list of eligible persons prepared by the [Commissioner] SECRETARY of Personnel in accordance with the [merit system] PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL ARTICLE THAT GOVERN CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

18.

All police employees, including persons appointed to the Department for training prior to regular assignment as a police employee, shall remain in a probationary status for a period of two years from the date of appointment to the Department. Civilian employees shall remain in a probationary status for the period prescribed [by the merit system] UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL ARTICLE. The Superintendent may discharge an employee in probationary status for any cause which [he] THE SUPERINTENDENT, in [his] THE SUPERINTENDENT'S sole discretion, deems sufficient.

19.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no police employee shall be appointed or promoted to any rank except one which requires technical knowledge, unless the employee is bypassing an obsolete rank and currently fills the rank immediately below the rank that has been declared obsolete, or has filled the rank immediately below that to which [he] THE EMPLOYEE is promoted; but as to any noncommissioned rank which contains less than twenty-five police employees, the Superintendent may by rule direct that it is unnecessary to fill such rank for purposes of promotion. Promotion to any noncommissioned rank shall be made in the manner prescribed by rule. Promotion to any commissioned rank, except deputy superintendent, shall be made from among those persons appearing in any position on a list of eligible persons prepared by the [State Commissioner] SECRETARY of Personnel in accordance with the [merit system] PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL ARTICLE THAT GOVERN CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

(e) Promotions of civilian employees shall be made in [the manner provided by the merit system] ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL ARTICLE THAT GOVERN CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES.