

(c) The [Superintendent] SECRETARY may not make application on behalf of the officer under subsection (b)(16) of this section until one full year after the onset of the disability and the expiration of any administrative leave granted under § 23A of this article. Sufficient medical evidence shall be deemed the professional opinion of an independent medical practitioner having recognized expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of the specified illness of the employee in question. Nothing in this section shall prevent an employee from exercising the individual's rights under § 21-111 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.

DRAFTER'S NOTE:

Subsections (a), (b)(2), (5), (14), and (15), and (c) of this section are amended to reflect the status of the head of the Department of State Police as the Secretary of a principal department of State government in light of Chs. 165 and 166, Acts of 1994.

16.

The [Superintendent] SECRETARY may, with the approval of the Governor, designate without examination, to serve at the [Superintendent's] SECRETARY'S pleasure, one police employee holding the highest commissioned rank to be deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY. The deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY shall have such authority, responsibility, and duties as may be assigned by the [Superintendent] SECRETARY and, in case of the absence from the State or incapacitating disability of the [Superintendent] SECRETARY, the deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY shall have all of the powers and duties conferred by law upon the [Superintendent] SECRETARY during the [superintendent's] SECRETARY'S absence or until the disability is removed. A deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY designated in accordance with this section shall, notwithstanding any other provision of this article, continue in office at the pleasure of the [Superintendent] SECRETARY. Upon termination of such designation by the [Superintendent] SECRETARY, such person shall return to the rank held prior to such designation. The deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY shall not be paid in accordance with § 23(a) of this article but shall receive such salary as provided in the budget. Whenever the [Superintendent] SECRETARY terminates the designation of a particular person as deputy [superintendent] SECRETARY, such person shall thereafter be paid in accordance with § 23(a) of this article.

DRAFTER'S NOTE:

This section is amended to reflect the status of the head of the Department of State Police as the Secretary of a principal department of State government in light of Chs. 165 and 166, Acts of 1994.

17.

(a) The [Superintendent] SECRETARY shall, within the limits of any appropriation made for such purpose, appoint such employees as are deemed necessary by the [Superintendent] SECRETARY for the efficient administration of the