

(3) A credit under paragraph (2) of this subsection may be allowed only for purposes of determining the standing of an applicant on a list of eligible candidates for which the applicant otherwise is qualified.

(4) An eligible veteran who has been placed on a list of eligible candidates shall be certified for appointment, reemployment, or reinstatement, ahead of an applicant who is not an eligible veteran and has the same or a lower score on the examination.

(5) Except for a position as a fire fighter or police officer, the age limitation for a position shall be waived for an eligible veteran who is less than 55 years old.

(6) If an eligible veteran is convicted of a crime after being discharged from or completing military service:

(i) the veteran is ineligible for any credit or preference under this subsection; and

(ii) if the veteran is certified by the Secretary as eligible for appointment to a position, the appointing authority may consider the conviction in deciding whether to appoint the veteran to the position.

(c) (1) The Secretary may provide by regulation that, on all examinations, credit for experience and demonstrated efficiency be given to a classified service employee or class of classified service employees competing for promotion to a higher class.

(2) A credit allowed an applicant under this subsection may not exceed 20% of the applicant's total score.

(d) (1) (i) In this subsection the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(ii) "Host county" means any county in which a qualified prison facility is located.

(iii) "Adjacent county" means any county adjacent to a host county.

(iv) "Qualified prison facility" means any new State correctional institution of 750 beds or more constructed for the Division of Correction of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services on or after January 1, 1985.

(2) In a competitive examination for an initial appointment to any position in a qualified prison facility, the Secretary shall allow five preference points to each resident of the host county or an adjacent county if, in the most recent 12-month period for which data is available as reported by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, that county had an average unemployment rate that is more than one and one-half times the State unemployment rate as a whole.]

[4-206.

(a) (1) The Secretary is responsible for the conduct of all examinations.

(2) The Secretary:

(i) may designate any person, even if not a State employee, as a special examiner; and