

from the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board that the individual receives disability [and] OR retirement benefits under the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act.

(3) In order to obtain this exemption, an individual *WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION*, who was a federal employee, and who does not receive disability [and] OR retirement benefits under the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act shall obtain certification from the individual's federal retirement or pension authority of the employee's:

(i) Total and permanent disability; and

(ii) Receipt of disability benefits based on a standard that is at least as stringent as the standard applied by the Social Security Act.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved April 13, 2004.

CHAPTER 46

(House Bill 446)

AN ACT concerning

State Personnel - Duties of Department and Secretary of Budget and Management

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing, rather than requiring,~~ requiring the Secretary of Budget and Management to conduct certain position and operational audits for positions in the State Personnel Management System at least once every 3 years; ~~and to audit a sample of instances of contractual employment for a certain purpose;~~ ~~authorizing, rather than requiring,~~ requiring the Department of Budget and Management to assist units in developing certain forms, plans, and tests for recruitment and hiring in the State Personnel Management System and to review and audit certain recruitment and hiring practices of appointing authorities at least once every 3 years; and generally relating to State personnel and the duties of the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Department of Budget and Management.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - State Personnel and Pensions

Section 4-203; and 7-201, ~~and 13-205~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: