MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 19 – St. Mary's County

120–2.

A.   [With the exception of] (1) EXCEPT FOR the Sheriff ~~AND CAPTAIN~~, ALL personnel of the Sheriff's office shall participate in the merit system of St. Mary's County and shall be hired and governed by the rules of that system. A CAPTAIN APPOINTED BY THE SHERIFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE MERIT SYSTEM EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE RULES OF THAT SYSTEM CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION.

(2)   The County Commissioners SHALL determine the number of deputy sheriffs necessary for the county.

(3)   Deputy sheriffs shall be appointed by the Sheriff and shall carry out their duties under the direction of the Sheriff.

(4)   The deputy sheriffs shall have the qualifications fixed by the County Commissioners[, provided that, as a minimum, the]. THE qualifications [fixed shall] MAY not be less than the qualifications generally required for law enforcement officers.

(5)   All deputy sheriffs shall attend and satisfactorily complete the training programs REQUIRED to aid in the discharge of their office.

B.   (1)   SUBJECT TO THE QUALIFICATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SHERIFF MAY APPOINT, WITHOUT EXAMINATION, A CAPTAIN WHO SHALL SERVE IN THAT POSITION AT THE PLEASURE OF THE SHERIFF.

(2)   THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL SET THE SALARY OF THE CAPTAIN.

(3)   ONLY A DEPUTY SHERIFF WHO HOLDS THE PERMANENT RANK OF SERGEANT OR LIEUTENANT IN THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT TO CAPTAIN.

~~(4)   THE CAPTAIN MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE RETIREMENT PLAN AND IN THE COMPETITIVE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS FOR THE NEXT RANK HIGHER THAN THE PERMANENT RANK OF CAPTAIN.~~

(4)   WHILE SERVING AS CAPTAIN, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY PARTICIPATE:

(I)   IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE RETIREMENT PLAN; AND

(II)   IN THE COMPETITIVE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS FOR THE NEXT RANK ABOVE THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERMANENT RANK.

(5)   WHEN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CAPTAIN ENDS, THE