

(I) EXCEPT FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL ASSIGNED TO THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT, BE APPOINTED BY AND SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE SECRETARY AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 64A, § 35 OF THE CODE (THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM LAW); AND

(II) RECEIVE SUCH COMPENSATION AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(2) EXCEPT FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE EXECUTIVE PAY PLAN AND ANY ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL ASSIGNED TO THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT, AN UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT MAY NOT BE PERMANENTLY REMOVED FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE EXCEPT FOR CAUSE AND UNTIL WRITTEN CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED AND A HEARING HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE. THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO THE REMOVAL OF AN UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE BECAUSE OF A LAYOFF THAT RESULTED FROM:

(I) A LACK OF WORK; OR

(II) THE LACK OF AN APPROPRIATION.

3-303.

The Secretary may adopt regulations that relate to collections under this subtitle, including:

(1) procedures for referral of a debt or claim; [and]

(2) the information that supports the debt or claim; AND

(3) THE RATE OF FEES TO BE CHARGED UNDER § 3-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

3-304.

(a) In carrying out its responsibilities, the Central Collection Unit may:

(1) (I) institute, in its name, any action that is available under State law for collection of a debt or claim; or

[(2)](II) without suit, settle the debt or claim; ~~AND~~

~~(2) ASSESS AND COLLECT A FEE OF 15% OF THE DEBT, IN ADDITION TO PRINCIPAL, AGAINST ANY ACCOUNT REFERRED TO THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

(2) FOR ALL DEBTS OR CLAIMS COLLECTED ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 1992: