

age of sixty years, he or she shall be eligible for retirement, and may upon his or her application be retired, and thereafter shall be entitled to, and shall be paid, an annual retirement allowance equal to the result obtained by multiplying the average salary paid to him or her for the five years next preceding his or her retirement or discontinuance in office by the number of years of his or her service, ascertained as aforesaid, and divided by the number seventy.

And whenever any of said parties in this section shall break down physically, or because of any illness or casualty become permanently disabled or disqualified for the further proper performance of the duties of his or her position, while in the service of any such Clerk of the Court or Register of Wills, as aforesaid, after having served a total of fifteen years in one or more of said capacities, as aforesaid, he or she shall likewise be eligible for retirement, and may upon his or her application, be retired, and shall thereafter likewise be entitled to, and shall be paid an annual retirement allowance equal to the result obtained by multiplying the average salary paid to him or her for the five years next preceding his or her retirement by the number of years of his or her service, ascertained as aforesaid and dividing by the number seventy.

77. Upon receipt of any application from any party claiming to be eligible for a retirement allowance under this Act, it shall be the duty of said Retirement Board forthwith to make a prompt and impartial investigation, (and upon the request of the applicant to give him or her a hearing) as to the merits of such application and the facts justifying the same, and in connection therewith to call, swear, examine and hear such witnesses, and to call for and examine such records or documents, or copies, thereof, as said applicant or applicants may request or the Retirement Board may desire, and may cause medical examination to be made and expert testimony to be heard regarding the health and physical condition of the applicant in all cases in which the application is based upon physical disability.

Thereafter if said Retirement Board find that any applicant is eligible for retirement under any of the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of the said Retirement Board to certify its findings of fact promptly and in no case later than December 1 of any year, in the matter of every application for retirement thereunder to the Governor of Maryland, and state the amount of retirement allowance, if any, to which