

open to all persons who may be lawfully appointed to any position within the class for which the examination is held, with such limitations as may be specified in the rules by the Secretary as to age, health, habits, moral character, physical condition, and other qualifications, except as hereinafter provided that are in the judgment of the Secretary prerequisite to the performance of the duties of such positions; provided, however, that the Secretary may, from time to time, provide for general rules exempting from competitive examinations, positions to be filled by unskilled manual laborers, including positions for road patrolmen under the State [Roads Commission] HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, and may, if he sees fit, provide in lieu of said competitive examinations such system or systems of registration for said laborers or otherwise as in its judgment will best provide for such positions; and provide further as to all positions that the Secretary may by his rules give preference in competition for higher classes of positions to classified service employees or to classified service employees of a certain class or classes by giving credit for experience and demonstrated efficiency (not to exceed twenty per centum of all marks) in determining the relative fitness for promotion of such employees. Veterans of the military and naval services of the United States who served a minimum of 90 days or were released prior to that length of service due to a service-connected disability prior to January 31, 1955, or who served on or after January 31, 1955 for a minimum of 181 days of continuous active duty or were released prior to that length of time due to a service-connected disability, who have either been honorably discharged or who have received a certificate of satisfactory completion of such service, and who have been bona fide residents of this State for five years or more immediately prior to filing an application, shall be given special credit for such service. Such war veterans who are disabled as a result of their war service shall be given credit of ten points in all examinations for appointments. Non-disabled veterans shall be given a credit of five points in all examinations for appointment. All such credit shall be allowed only in determining the standing on the certification of eligibles of said veteran.

(h) (i) Any person who for a period of one year has been employed continuously (including any period during which he or she was not so employed due to no fault of his own) by the State [Roads Commission] HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION as a maintenance person, or on roadside beautification work, or a member of the State [Roads Commission] HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION weighing crews, may apply to the Secretary of Personnel for classification as a highway maintenance person.

(ii) If the applicant satisfies the Secretary of Personnel (1) that he or she has been continuously employed in maintaining State roads and/or county roads, or on roadside beautification work, under State