

AN ACT concerning local government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by changing Sections 3-7008 and 3-8010 and by adding Section 3-6008.5 as follows:

(55 ILCS 5/3-6008.5 new)

Sec. 3-6008.5. Veteran testing. An applicant who is a veteran, as that term is defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), who was discharged honorably or generally under honorable conditions no later than 6 months before applying may request examination to occur before the next scheduled examination date and, if requested, may be examined as soon as possible prior to the next examination date following receipt of the application. Once the applicant passes the examination and all other requirements to be on an eligibility list, the applicant shall be immediately placed on the eligibility list. Nothing in this Section waives eligibility for the applicant to receive military preference points during the application process or employment.

(55 ILCS 5/3-7008) (from Ch. 34, par. 3-7008)

Sec. 3-7008. Appointments. The appointment of deputy

sheriffs in the Police Department, full-time deputy sheriffs not employed as county police officers or county corrections officers and of employees in the Department of Corrections shall be made from those applicants who have been certified by the Board as being qualified for appointment. Certification for appointment in one department shall not constitute certification for appointment in another department. Certification may be made at any point prior to appointment and may be made in conjunction with the Sheriff's application process. All persons so appointed shall, at the time of their appointment, be not less than 21 years of age, or 20 years of age and have successfully completed 2 years of law enforcement studies at an accredited college or university. Any person appointed subsequent to successful completion of 2 years of such law enforcement studies shall not have power of arrest, nor shall he or she be permitted to carry firearms, until he or she reaches 21 years of age. Any person appointed shall be a citizen of the United States, an individual who is legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law and is authorized under federal law to obtain, carry, or purchase or otherwise possess a firearm, or an individual against whom immigration action has been deferred by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process and who is authorized under federal law to obtain, carry, or purchase or otherwise possess a firearm. In addition, all persons so appointed shall be not

more than the maximum age limit fixed by the Board from time to time, be of sound mind and body, be of good moral character, have not been convicted of a crime which the Board considers to be detrimental to the applicant's ability to carry out his or her duties, possess such prerequisites of training, education and experience as the Board may from time to time prescribe, and shall be required to pass successfully mental, physical, psychiatric and other tests and examinations as may be prescribed by the Board. Preference shall be given in such appointments to persons who have honorably served in the military or naval services of the United States. All appointees shall serve a probationary period of 12 months and during that period may be discharged at the will of the Sheriff. However, civil service employees of the house of correction who have certified status at the time of the transfer of the house of correction to the County Department of Corrections are not subject to this probationary period, and they shall retain their job titles, such tenure privileges as are now enjoyed and any subsequent title changes shall not cause reduction in rank or elimination of positions.

An applicant who is a veteran, as that term is defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), who was discharged honorably or generally under honorable conditions no later than 6 months before applying may request examination to occur before the next scheduled examination date and, if requested, may be examined as soon as possible prior to the next examination date

following receipt of the application. Once the applicant passes the examination and all other requirements to be on an eligibility list, the applicant shall be immediately placed on the eligibility list. Nothing in this paragraph waives eligibility for the applicant to receive military preference points during the application process or employment.

(Source: P.A. 103-357, eff. 1-1-24.)

(55 ILCS 5/3-8010) (from Ch. 34, par. 3-8010)

Sec. 3-8010. Certification of applicants. The appointment of all personnel subject to the jurisdiction of the Merit Commission shall be made by the sheriff from those applicants who have been certified by the Commission as being qualified for appointment. A Commission may, by its rules and regulations, set forth the minimum requirements for appointment to any position. In addition, the Commission's review of any application may include examinations, investigations or any other method consistent with recognized merit principles, which in the judgment of the Commission is reasonable and practical for any particular classification. Different examining procedures may be set for the examinations in different classifications but all examinations in the same classification shall be uniform. However, the Merit Commission may by regulation provide that applicants who have served with another sheriff's office, a police department, or any other law enforcement agency, or who are graduate law enforcement

interns as defined in the Law Enforcement Intern Training Act, may be exempt from one or more of the minimum requirements for appointment. Preference may be given in such appointments to persons who have honorably served in the military or naval services of the United States.

An applicant who is a veteran, as that term is defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), who was discharged honorably or generally under honorable conditions no later than 6 months before applying may request examination to occur before the next scheduled examination date and, if requested, may be examined as soon as possible prior to the next examination date following receipt of the application. Once the applicant passes the examination and all other requirements to be on an eligibility list, the applicant shall be immediately placed on the eligibility list. Nothing in this paragraph waives eligibility for the applicant to receive military preference points during the application process or employment.

The sheriff shall make appointments from those persons certified by the Commission as qualified for appointment. If the sheriff rejects any person so certified, the sheriff shall notify the Commission in writing of such rejection.

The rules and regulations of a Commission shall provide that all initial appointees shall serve a probationary period of 12 months during which time they may be discharged at the will of the sheriff.

(Source: P.A. 92-83, eff. 7-12-01.)