KATHY HOCHUL Governor TIMOTHY R. HOGUES Commissioner

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Appointing Authorities, Personnel Directors, and Diversity and Inclusion Liaisons

FROM: Nicole Keith, Director

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Management

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Updates to the Governor's Programs to Hire Individuals and Veterans with

Disabilities (Civil Service Law Sections 55-b/c)

Attached for your information and incorporation into the State Personnel Management Manual are updated Guidelines and Procedures for the appointment of persons with disabilities pursuant to sections 55-b/c of the Civil Service Law.

The 55-b/c guidelines have been revised from the prior version to reflect the following:

- The increased threshold for the 55-b program from 1,200 positions to 1,700 positions.
- Inclusion of gender-neutral language.
- Removal of language that states the program is "not intended to be the primary avenue" of hiring individuals and veterans with disabilities. While there are other means of hiring individuals and veterans with disabilities, all available options should be encouraged and explored.
- Addition of language that "candidates with disabilities and veterans remain eligible for appointment to any competitive, non-competitive (positions not designated 55b/c), exempt, and labor class positions for which they are qualified."
- Adoption of criteria that increases opportunities for program eligibility among individuals and veterans with disabilities including:
  - Removal of language limiting the scope of the program to individuals with severe physical or mental disabilities to avoid preclusion of participation from some individuals that are identified as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or the New York State Human Rights Law. Applicants are still required to meet all established criteria to be eligible for the program.
  - o Incorporating more inclusive criteria for eligibility which includes "physical or mental conditions which substantially limits one or more major life activities."
  - Removal of the specification that qualifying conditions "should generally be permanent" and adopting language that states "all DCS determinations are made on an individual basis upon review of the application."
  - For 55-c eligibility, proof of disability rating has been lowered from 20 percent or more to 10 percent or more.
- Changes that streamline the application and review process by removing unessential eligibility requirements, namely:
  - Removal of the requirement that individuals and veterans with disabilities submit "a personal statement of disability."

- Removal of the requirement that the applicant supply proof that they have had difficulty securing employment.
- Veterans with a disability rating of 10% or more from the VA, will not be required to complete the Physician's Questionnaire, if they can supply a copy of their VA Entitlement Letter.
- Clarification that discharge papers (or equivalent) should show "periods and character of service, and [conforming] documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [formerly U.S. Veterans Administration]."
- Clarified language to read "A former military service member who does not qualify for eligibility in the 55-c Program based upon a lack of qualifying military service may continue to be considered for eligibility in the 55-b Program (see 55-b Program Guidelines)."
- Removal of requirements that 55-c candidates be wartime veterans.
- Clarification that although an active/current letter of eligibility is required to be appointed to a
  position via the 55-b/c program, active letters of eligibility will not be required when a 55-c
  candidate is being appointed through the reemployment system.

### Please also note the following:

- Policy Bulletins 25-01 and 25-02 require that, prior to offering an appointment, agencies verify that a candidate's eligibility remains active.
- A candidate's 55-b/c Letter of Eligibility should be kept on file in the agency Human Resources office and not provided to hiring managers or interview panel members.

These changes will assist NYS individuals with disabilities with better access to NYS employment which, in turn, will ensure NYS a more inclusive workforce.

Please direct any questions related to these process changes in an email to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Management at S-90@cs.ny.gov or contact your ODIM liaison for further discussion.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 55-b OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

These Guidelines and Procedures set forth the eligibility criteria and the application and appointment processes for the Civil Service Law (CSL) section 55-b Program.

Administration of the 55-b Program is governed by Part 58 of the Regulations of the State Civil Service Commission (Commission's Regulations). These Guidelines and Procedures are intended to clarify for applicants, employees, and appointing authorities the standards for appointment for the CSL section 55-b Program. These Guidelines do not supersede or impair any rights which an individual may possess under any law or rule. For specific questions not addressed in these Guidelines and Procedures, please contact the Department of Civil Service (DCS) 55-b/c Unit at 518-473-8961 or toll-free at 1-866-297-4356 or by e-mail at S-90@cs.ny.gov.

# I. PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND OTHER METHODS OF APPOINTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

CSL section 55-b, commonly referred to as the "55-b Program," authorizes the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to determine up to 1,700 positions to be filled by persons with a physical or mental disability who are found otherwise qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of any such positions. Upon such determination by the CSC, the positions are placed in the non-competitive class and may be filled by a person who has been certified by DCS as being 55-b "eligible."

CSL section 55-b is not the only avenue for hiring individuals with disabilities into the State civil service. This section provides agencies with significant flexibility for hiring but is limited by statute to 1,700 positions.

Candidates with disabilities remain eligible for appointment to any competitive, non-competitive (positions not designated 55-b/c), exempt and labor class positions for which they are qualified.

### **II. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

## A. Application for Program Eligibility

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment pursuant to the 55-b Program must submit a formal application, including medical documentation and employment history. The applications are submitted to, and reviewed by, DCS.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

- B. Certification of Eligibility
  - 1. Criteria for Eligibility

55-b Program applicants will ordinarily be found eligible to participate in the Program provided they adequately document a permanent disability which meets at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Is legally blind (central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses or visual field restriction to 20 degrees diameter or less in the better eye);
- b. Is deaf (has a profound hearing loss and relies on visual communication such as sign language, writing, lip reading and gestures) or has a severe hearing impairment (best corrected average loss of > 70 db in the better ear at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz);
- c. Has a musculoskeletal condition (e.g., amputation) or neuromuscular condition (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis) which severely limits ambulation;
- d. Has a cardiovascular condition (e.g., Class IV CHF) or pulmonary condition (e.g. COPD) which severely limits ambulation and/or requires constant oxygen administration;
- e. Has a developmental disability attributable to Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Neurological Impairment, Familial Dysautonomia, Autism or any other condition closely related in terms of severe impairment of intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior or requiring similar treatment and services;
- f. Has a mental illness, disease, or condition manifested by a disorder or disturbance in behavior, feeling, thinking or judgment which severely disrupts their ability to relate to others and daily functioning;
- g. Has other physical or mental conditions which substantially limits one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. Major life activities also include major bodily functions such as immune system functions, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, and endocrine functions.

Qualifying conditions will be assessed based upon the applicant's current functional status, taking into account measures which the individual has taken to

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

ameliorate functional limitations, including, but not limited to prostheses, medications, eyeglasses/contact lenses or hearing aids.

All DCS determinations are made on an individual basis upon review of the application.

## C. Letter of Eligibility

Applicants determined to be eligible to participate in the 55-b Program will receive a letter of eligibility. The period of eligibility is three years from the date of the eligibility letter. Candidates must supply agencies with a copy of their eligibility letter when applying for positions under the 55-b program. Agencies should verify that a candidate's eligibility remains active before making an offer of appointment. Applicants wishing to retain their eligibility in the 55-c program must renew their interest every three years by responding to an email inquiry from DCS and following any instructions provided. Generally, an individual's eligibility for the program will be extended upon request if their medical circumstances remain the same.

Active letters of eligibility will not be required when a 55-b candidate is being appointed through the reemployment system.

## D. Appeals

As provided by section 58.3 of the Commission's Regulations, a person found not eligible for participation in the 55-b Program may appeal that determination to the CSC. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons why the individual believes that the determination is incorrect. An appeal must be received by the CSC within 30 days of the date of the written notice of the determination by DCS. The CSC shall consider such reasons, together with all supporting documents, in making its determination. The CSC may designate a physician, other than the physician who first examined the person, to conduct a secondary examination. The determination of the CSC as to whether the applicant is eligible for appointment under the 55-b Program shall be a final determination within the meaning of article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

### **III. APPOINTMENTS**

## A. Titles Appropriate for 55-b Classification

Entry-level titles are defined as any title for which an open-competitive examination is held and the promotion list, if one exists, has been exhausted.

1. The CSC will generally approve any competitive class position, normally

### 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

- filled through open-competitive and/or transition examination, for non-competitive classification pursuant to section 55-b, upon agency request. This includes positions for which there are formal traineeships.
- 2. In cases where positions are filled via both promotion and opencompetitive examinations, 55-b candidates can be considered for positions once the promotion list has been exhausted.
- 3. The CSC will not approve the placement of positions in the non-competitive class pursuant to section 55-b when a reemployment list(s) exists as the result of layoffs. The request may be reconsidered when the re-employment list(s) no longer exists.

### B. Qualification Requirements for Appointees to 55-b Positions

- Candidates must possess the minimum qualifications for the selected title as established by the Staffing Services Division of the DCS. Ordinarily, the minimum qualifications described in the last examination announcement for the title are controlling.
- 2. Candidates must meet the applicable minimal mental and/or physical requirements for the job with a reasonable accommodation, if necessary.

### C. Considerations for a 55-b Appointment

1. Candidates who can be Considered for Appointment

In addition to having an eligibility letter and meeting the qualifications described in III B above, candidates in the following circumstances can be considered for a 55-b appointment:

- a. A person who has never worked for the state.
- b. A 55-b certified, current or former State employee.
- c. A current state employee in a 55-b position who meets the technical requirements for a 70.1, 70.4 or 52.6 transfer (see *Lateral Mobility and Subsequent Appointments* below).
- d. A person previously employed in a 55-b position who resigned from that position may be considered for reinstatement to a 55-b position pursuant to Rule 5.4 of the Rules for the Classified Service.

### 2. Candidates who should not be Considered for Appointment

a. Individuals certified eligible for the 55-b program may not be considered for a 55-b appointment to a title they previously held on a permanent, competitive basis. In such cases, agencies interested in appointing such individuals should do so as a reinstatement to a permanent, competitive class position.

### 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

b. The CSC may consider agency requests for waivers of these requirements in extraordinary circumstances for good cause shown and where the interests of government would be served.

### D. Promotion

By statute, 55-b employees enjoy the same promotion opportunities as afforded competitive class incumbents. Consequently, 55-b employees may compete in promotional examinations; they may be provisionally appointed to competitive class promotion level titles; and they may be considered for a non-competitive promotion when such requirements are met.

### E. Lateral Mobility and Subsequent Appointments

55-b eligible employees are intended to have the same career mobility as their competitive class colleagues in the same title. A permanent 55-b employee may be given a new appointment to a different 55-b position when the proposed transaction meets the technical requirements for transfer determined by the Department of Civil Service pursuant to Civil Service Law sections 70.1, 70.4, 52.6 and Civil Service Rule 5.1.

#### F. Reinstatement to a 55-b Position

55-b employees separated from their positions may be reinstated to a non-competitive 55-b position pursuant to Rule 5.4 of the Classified Service.

### G. Probationary Service

- 1. All 55-b Program appointees are subject to a probationary period in accordance with Classified Service Rule 4.5. During the period of probationary service, an appointee must demonstrate ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position to the satisfaction of the appointing authority.
- 2. In instances where permanent 55-b appointees are given subsequent appointments to different positions, such employees are deemed to be on leave of absence from their 55-b positions until they have satisfactorily completed probationary service in the new 55-b position.

### H. Temporarily Vacant 55-b Positions

When a 55-b position is permanently vacated it automatically reverts to the competitive class. A 55-b position will also automatically revert to the competitive class when it has been vacant for three months or more. If, thereafter, the

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

permanent 55-b incumbent returns, the position is re-designated non-competitive.

### IV. AGENCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Prior to offering an appointment to a 55-b candidate, agencies who are considering a 55-b appointment must take the following steps:

- Identify an appropriate title
- Identify an item number\*
- Review the candidate's qualifications
- Verify that the candidate is currently 55-b eligible
- Check list clearance codes
- Contact the 55-b/c Unit to verify appointment is appropriate, that positions are available, and the candidate can perform the essential duties of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation, based upon the medical opinion from EHS.
- Submit the S90, 55-b/c Program Appointment Request Form to the 55-b/c Unit by email at <u>S-90@cs.ny.gov</u>.

If everything is in order, the 55-b/c Unit will advise agencies to complete the on-line appointment request form. When the agency has been notified that they may proceed with the appointment request process, the intended incumbent may be appointed "temporary pending commission action" to 55-b. It is not necessary for the CSC to approve the agency request prior to such temporary appointment.

\*Note: Agencies can make 55-b appointments to encumbered items, with the understanding that the applicant is informed of their contingent status at the time of hire.

### V. CSC AND DCS ACTION

**Division of Staffing Services** 

Upon receipt of the appointment request form seeking jurisdictional reclassification, the 55-b/c Unit will review the form for completeness and send the requesting agency an e-mail acknowledging the request.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

As appropriate, Staffing Services Representatives will review the request to confirm that the individual meets the minimum qualifications of the position sought.

Office of Civil Service Commission Operations (CommOps)

Once the review of the appointment request form is complete, the 55-b/c Unit will forward the form to CommOps for placement on the Commission Calendar.

By law and rule, the CSC retains discretion to reject any agency appointment request made through the 55-b Program. If the appointment is approved, CommOps will note the disposition on the Calendar which is posted on the DCS website. This is the only notification agencies will receive.

If the jurisdictional reclassification request is denied, CommOps will advise the 55-b/c Unit to notify the agency.

Upon CSC approval, CommOps will change the jurisdictional classification of the item/position and set the effective date of the jurisdictional classification change to the date of Commission approval. Once the item number has been changed to non-competitive, the agency must submit a NYSTEP transaction making the employee permanent.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 55-c OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

These Guidelines and Procedures set forth the eligibility criteria and the application and appointment processes for the Civil Service Law (CSL) section 55-c Program.

Administration of the 55-c Program is governed by Part 58 of the Regulations of the State Civil Service Commission (Commission's Regulations). These Guidelines and Procedures are intended to clarify for applicants, employees, and appointing authorities the standards for appointment for the CSL section 55-c Program. These Guidelines do not supersede or impair any rights which an individual may possess under any law or rule. For specific questions not addressed in these Guidelines and Procedures, please contact the Department of Civil Service (DCS) 55-b/c Unit at 518-473-8961 or toll-free at 1-866-297-4356 or by e-mail at S-90@cs.ny.gov.

# I. PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND OTHER METHODS OF APPOINTING VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

CSL section 55-c, commonly referred to as the "55-c Program," authorizes the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to determine up to 500 positions to be filled by veterans with a physical or mental disability who are found otherwise qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of any such positions. Upon such determination by the CSC, the positions are placed in the non-competitive class and may be filled by a person who has been certified by DCS as being 55-c "eligible."

CSL section 55-c is not the only avenue for hiring veterans with disabilities into the State civil service. This section provides agencies with significant flexibility for hiring but is limited by statute to 500 positions.

Veterans with disabilities remain eligible for appointment to any competitive, non-competitive (positions not designated 55-b/c), exempt and labor class positions for which they are qualified.

### **II. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

### A. Application for Program Eligibility

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment under the 55-c Program must submit a formal application, including medical documentation and employment history. Veterans must include their discharge papers (or equivalent), showing periods and character of service, and documentation from

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [formerly U.S. Veterans Administration] as described below. The applications are submitted to and reviewed by DCS.

A **Veteran** with a disability rating of 10% or more from the VA, will not be required to complete the Physician's Questionnaire, if they can supply a copy of their **VA Entitlement Letter**.

### B. Certification of Eligibility

## 1. Criteria for 55-c Eligibility

Pursuant to section 55-c, an applicant will be eligible for the 55-c Program if they are a documented veteran as defined in Civil Service Law section 85 and meet at least one the following criteria:

- a. has proof of a disability rating from the VA of **10 percent or more**, as set forth in Civil Service Law section 85(2), or;
- records establishing a pending claim for certain "presumptive" illnesses, diagnosable chronic disability patterns and diseases identified by the VA where documented (e.g., Gulf War Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD] or Agent Orange-related illness [Hodgkin's Disease, Diabetes Type 2, Disfiguring Chloracne, Melanoma]), or;
- c. has received the award of a Purple Heart where the wound received may be presumptively associated in contributing to the degree of impairment, or;
- d. has successfully completed a U.S. VA drug/alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program.

A veteran who is not eligible for participation in the 55-c Program based upon one of these factors may still be considered for participation in the 55-c Program if they meet the additional eligibility criteria described in section B(2) below.

### 2. Additional Eligibility Criteria

- a. Is legally blind (central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses or visual field restriction to 20 degrees diameter or less in the better eye);
- b. Is deaf (has a profound hearing loss and relies on visual communication such as sign language, writing, lip reading and

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

gestures) or has a severe hearing impairment (best corrected average loss of > 70 db in the better ear at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz);

- c. Has a musculoskeletal condition (e.g., amputation) or neuromuscular condition (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis) which severely limits ambulation;
- d. Has a cardiovascular condition (e.g., Class IV CHF) or pulmonary condition (e.g. COPD) which severely limits ambulation and/or requires constant oxygen administration;
- e. Has a developmental disability attributable to Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Neurological Impairment, Familial Dysautonomia, Autism or any other condition closely related in terms of severe impairment of intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior or requiring similar treatment and services;
- f. Has a mental illness, disease, or condition manifested by a disorder or disturbance in behavior, feeling, thinking or judgment which severely disrupts their ability to relate to others and daily functioning;
- g. Has other physical or mental conditions which substantially limits one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. Major life activities also include major bodily functions such as immune system functions, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, and endocrine functions.

Qualifying conditions will be assessed based upon the applicant's current functional status, taking into account measures which the individual has taken to ameliorate functional limitations, including, but not limited to prostheses, medications, eyeglasses/contact lenses or hearing aids.

All DCS determinations are made on an individual basis upon review of the application.

A former military service member who does not qualify for eligibility in the 55-c Program based upon a lack of qualifying military service may continue to be considered for eligibility in the 55-b Program (see 55-b Program Guidelines).

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

### C. Letters of Eligibility

Applicants determined to be eligible to participate in the 55-c Program will receive a letter of eligibility. The period of eligibility is three years from the date of the eligibility letter. Candidates must supply agencies with a copy of their eligibility letter when applying for positions under the 55-c program. Agencies should verify that a candidate's eligibility remains active before making an offer of appointment. Applicants wishing to retain their eligibility in the 55-c program must renew their interest every three years by responding to an email inquiry from DCS and following any instructions provided. Generally, an individual's eligibility for the program will be extended upon request if their medical circumstances remain the same.

Active letters of eligibility will not be required when a 55-c candidate is being appointed through the reemployment system.

### D. Appeals

As provided by section 58.3 of the Commission's Regulations, a person found not eligible for participation in the 55-c Program may appeal that determination to the CSC. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons why the individual believes that the determination is incorrect. An appeal must be received by the CSC within 30 days of the date of the written notice of the determination by DCS. The CSC shall consider such reasons, together with all supporting documents, in making its determination. The CSC may designate a physician, other than the physician who first examined the person, to conduct a secondary examination. The determination of the CSC as to whether the applicant is eligible for appointment under the 55-c Program shall be a final determination within the meaning of article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

### **III. APPOINTMENTS**

## A. Titles Appropriate for 55-c Classification

Entry-level titles are defined as any title for which an open-competitive examination is held and the promotion list, if one exists, has been exhausted.

- 1. The CSC will generally approve any competitive class position, normally filled through open-competitive and/or transition examination, for non-competitive classification pursuant to section 55-c, upon agency request. This includes positions for which there are formal traineeships.
- 2. In cases where positions are filled via both promotion and opencompetitive examinations, 55-c candidates can be considered for positions once the promotion list has been exhausted.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

- 3. The CSC will not approve the placement of positions in the non-competitive class pursuant to section 55-c when a reemployment list(s) exists as the result of layoffs. The request may be reconsidered when the re-employment list(s) no longer exists.
- B. Qualification Requirements for Appointees to 55-c Positions
  - Candidates must possess the minimum qualifications for the selected title as established by the Staffing Services Division of the DCS. Ordinarily, the minimum qualifications described in the last examination announcement for the title are controlling.
  - 2. Candidates must meet the applicable minimal mental and/or physical requirements for the job with a reasonable accommodation, if necessary.
- C. Considerations for a 55-c Appointment
  - 1. Candidates who can be Considered for Appointment

In addition to having an eligibility letter and meeting the qualifications described in III B above, candidates in the following circumstances can be considered for a 55-c appointment:

- a. A person who has never worked for the state.
- b. A 55-c certified, current or former State employee.
- c. A current state employee in a 55-c position who meets the technical requirements for a 70.1, 70.4 or 52.6 transfer (see *Lateral Mobility and Subsequent Appointments* below).
- d. A person previously employed in a 55-c position who resigned from that position may be considered for reinstatement to a 55-c position pursuant to Rule 5.4 of the Rules for the Classified Service.
- 2. Candidates who should not be Considered for Appointment
  - a. Individuals certified eligible for the 55-c program may not be considered for a 55-c appointment to a title they previously held on a permanent, competitive basis. In such cases, agencies interested in appointing such individuals should do so as a reinstatement to a permanent, competitive class position.
  - b. The CSC may consider agency requests for waivers of these requirements in extraordinary circumstances for good cause shown and where the interests of government would be served.

### 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

### D. Promotion

By statute, 55-c employees enjoy the same promotion opportunities as afforded competitive class incumbents. Consequently, 55-c employees may compete in promotional examinations; they may be provisionally appointed to competitive class promotion level titles; and they may be considered for a non-competitive promotion when such requirements are met.

## E. Lateral Mobility and Subsequent Appointments

55-c eligible employees are intended to have the same career mobility as their competitive class colleagues in the same title. A permanent 55-c employee may be given a new appointment to a different 55-c position when the proposed transaction meets the technical requirements for transfer determined by the Department of Civil Service pursuant to Civil Service Law sections 70.1, 70.4, 52.6 and Civil Service Rule 5.1.

### F. Reinstatement to a 55-c Position

55-c employees separated from their positions may be reinstated to a non-competitive 55-c position pursuant to Rule 5.4 of the Classified Service.

## G. Probationary Service

- 1. All 55-c Program appointees are subject to a probationary period in accordance with Classified Service Rule 4.5. During the period of probationary service, an appointee must demonstrate ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position to the satisfaction of the appointing authority.
- 2. In instances where permanent 55-c appointees are given subsequent appointments to different positions, such employees are deemed to be on leave of absence from their 55-c positions until they have satisfactorily completed probationary service in the new 55-c position.

### H. Temporarily Vacant 55-c Positions

When a 55-c position is permanently vacated it automatically reverts to the competitive class. A 55-c position will also automatically revert to the competitive class when it has been vacant for three months or more. If, thereafter, the permanent 55-c incumbent returns, the position is re-designated non-competitive.

1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

### IV. AGENCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Prior to offering an appointment to a 55-c candidate, agencies who are considering a 55-c appointment must take the following steps:

- Identify an appropriate title
- Identify an item number\*
- Review the candidate's qualifications
- Verify that the candidate is currently 55-c eligible
- Check list clearance codes
- Contact the 55-b/c Unit to verify appointment is appropriate, that positions are available, and the candidate can perform the essential duties of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation, based upon the medical opinion from EHS.
- Submit the S90, 55-b/c Program Appointment Request Form to the 55-b/c Unit by email at S-90@cs.ny.gov.

If everything is in order, the 55-b/c Unit will advise agencies to complete the on-line appointment request form. When the agency has been notified that they may proceed with the appointment request process, the intended incumbent may be appointed "temporary pending commission action" to 55-c. It is not necessary for the CSC to approve the agency request prior to such temporary appointment.

\*Note: Agencies can make 55-c appointments to encumbered items, with the understanding that the applicant is informed of their contingent status at the time of hire.

### V. CSC AND DCS ACTION

Division of Staffing Services

Upon receipt of the appointment request form seeking jurisdictional reclassification, the 55-b/c Unit will review the form for completeness and send the requesting agency an e-mail acknowledging the request.

As appropriate, Staffing Services Representatives will review the request to confirm that the individual meets the minimum qualifications of the position sought.

Office of Civil Service Commission Operations (CommOps)

Once the review of the appointment request form is complete, the 55-b/c Unit will forward the form to CommOps for placement on the Commission Calendar.

## 1805(B) Permanent/Non-Competitive

October 2025

By law and rule, the CSC retains discretion to reject any agency appointment request made through the 55-c Program. If the appointment is approved, CommOps will note the disposition on the Calendar which is posted on the DCS website. This is the only notification agencies will receive.

If the jurisdictional reclassification request is denied, CommOps will advise the 55-b/c Unit to notify the agency.

Upon CSC approval, CommOps will change the jurisdictional classification of the item/position and set the effective date of the jurisdictional classification change to the date of Commission approval. Once the item number has been changed to non-competitive, the agency must submit a NYSTEP transaction making the employee permanent.