

ARTICLE 45.5T--FILLING OF VACANCIES (Veterans' Affairs)**Section 1. Promotions.**

(a) When the Agency chooses to fill a vacancy by promotion, employees shall apply through the open job announcements. Employees who meet the minimum and any special qualifications for the position shall be interviewed and shall be considered before any external candidates.

(b) If two (2) or more candidates meet the minimum and special qualifications for the position, the employee with the greatest length of service in the classification will be selected. for final selection are equally qualified for the position in the judgment of the Agency, the candidate with the greatest length of service in the Agency will be selected for promotion.

Section 2. Transfers.

(a) Employees who are interested in a lateral transfer shall apply through the open job announcements. Employees who meet the minimum and any special qualifications for the position shall be interviewed and shall be considered before any external candidates.

~~(b) If two (2) or more candidates meet the minimum and special qualifications for the position, the employee with the greatest length of service in the classification will be selected.~~ If two (2) or more candidates for final selection are equally qualified for the position in the judgment of the Agency, the candidate with the greatest length of service in the Agency will be selected for transfer.