

Maryland. He must submit a report annually to the Board of Trustees and the Governor and General Assembly. The system will commence operation on January 1, 1972 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1971 Supp., Art. 27A).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman: Robert L. Sullivan, Jr., 1977

William S. Baldwin, 1973; H. Reese Shoemaker, Jr., 1975

J. Edward Davis, General Counsel, 1973.

Martin H. Freedman, People's Counsel

Charles C. Constantine, Executive Secretary

John W. Dorsey, Chief Engineer

E. Edward McLean, Chief Auditor

Joseph S. A. Giardina, Director of Transportation

Wilson B. Stringer, Executive Assistant—Chief Hearing Examiner

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The Public Service Commission, established by Chapter 180, Acts of 1910, is composed of three members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, one term expiring every two years. The Governor also appoints the General Counsel for a six-year term and the People's Counsel, who serves at the pleasure of the Governor (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 78, secs. 5, 6, 12, 14). The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers, including steam and electric railroads, sleeping car companies, bus lines, express companies, steamboat companies, power boats, ferry companies, carriers by aircraft, toll bridges, and all carriers, generally, engaged in the public transportation of passengers or freight within the State of Maryland, except those carriers of passengers which come within the jurisdiction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (Acts 1959, Ch. 613); and over all taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown. In addition, the Commission licenses the taxicab drivers in Baltimore City. The Commission also exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, sewage disposal, heating and refrigerating companies operating within the State. The Commission has the power to fix both *minimum* and *maximum* rates and to suspend schedules pending the determination of the reasonableness of the proposed rates. Public utilities may not abandon or discontinue the exercise of any franchise without permission of the Commission. The Commission tests all gas and electric meters before installation; it also tests previously installed meters at the request of the consumer. It maintains a laboratory in which it makes daily tests of gas furnished in the City of Baltimore. It also makes regular and frequent tests of the gas and electricity furnished in other parts of the State. It hears matters relative to (1) rate adjustments; (2) applications to exercise franchises; (3) approval of issuance of securities; (4) promulgation of new rules and regulations; (5) quality of utility and common carrier service; and (6) railroad safety. Recent legislation delegated to the Commission authority to issue a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in connection with an electric utility's application to construct a new generating station or transmission lines of a certain capacity (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 78, secs. 1-107).

The Commission is also authorized to make joint investigations, hold joint hearings, and issue joint or other concurrent orders in conjunction with any official board or commission of any state or the Federal government under agreements and compacts between states,