

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Munsey Building, Baltimore, Md.

Harold E. West.....	1929.....	Severna Park
J. Frank Harper.....	1931.....	Centreville
Steuart Purcell.....	1933.....	Baltimore
Frank Harper, Executive Secretary.....		Baltimore
H. Carl Wolf, Chief Engineer.....		Baltimore
Thomas J. Tingley, People's Counsel.....		Baltimore

The Public Service Commission of Maryland was created by Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1910, effective April 5, 1910.

The Governor appoints the three members of the Commission, one of whom he designates as Chairman. The term of office is six years, and the term of one Commissioner expires every two years.

The Commission has jurisdiction over steam and electric railroads, street railways, common carriers generally, including all railroad corporations, express companies, sleeping car companies, steamboat, power boat and ferry companies, and also motor vehicles engaged in the public transportation of passengers and freight. The Commission also has jurisdiction over gas companies, electric companies, telephone companies, telegraph companies, water companies and heating and refrigerating companies. The jurisdiction of the Commission is limited to operations within the State of Maryland.

By Chapter 272 of the Acts of 1916, jurisdiction was conferred over toll bridges erected over any stream or river dividing two counties in the State or between Maryland and another State.

The supervision and jurisdiction of the Commission covers the service furnished, the rates charged, the capitalization, the issue of stocks, bonds, and other securities, the right to exercise franchise granted by the counties and by the cities, the right to fix rates for service and to fix standards for service, and general supervisory and regulatory powers over the utilities subject to its jurisdiction. In the exercise of this supervision and jurisdiction, it is the purpose of the Commission to insure and maintain to the public safe and adequate service, at just and reasonable rates, without unjust discrimination.

The Commission is given power to investigate and ascertain the fair value of the property of corporations subject to its jurisdiction.

An annual report showing the financial conditions and operations of each utility under its jurisdiction is required to be filed with the Commission. Tables showing the results of the operations of the utilities are compiled and included in the Commission's annual report, which report also contains all opinions and final orders entered by the Commission during the year covered thereby.

By legislation enacted subsequent to the original Act, the Commission has been given power to fix minimum as well as maximum rates, to suspend schedules of rates pending the determination of the reasonableness of the rates proposed, and utilities are forbidden to abandon or discontinue the exercise of franchises without the permission and approval of the Commission.