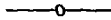


of the law are made, and legal action instituted to prosecute offenders (Code 1951, 1955 supp., Art. 83, secs. 116-152).

Appropriations	1955	1956
General Fund	\$52,779	\$54,119
Staff: 10.		



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman: Stanford Hoff, 1961
 Frank Harper, 1959; Wilmer Fell Davis, 1957
 Albert L. Deen, Executive Secretary
 Leon H. A. Pierson, General Counsel, 1961
 Wilfred T. McQuaid, People's Counsel
 Hugh H. Hunter, Chief Engineer
 E. Edward McLean, Chief Auditor

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The Public Service Commission was established in 1910. The Commission, composed of three members, is appointed by the Governor. The term of each member is six years, one term expiring every two years. The Governor also appoints the General Counsel, for a term of six years, and the People's Counsel who serves at the pleasure of the Governor (Code 1951, 1955 supp., Art. 78, sec. 4). The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers including steam and electric railroads, street railways, sleeping car companies, bus lines, express companies, steam boat 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. The Commission also exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, heating and refrigerating companies operating within the State. All taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore are also under the jurisdiction of the Commission. 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. All gas and electric meters are tested by the Commission prior to their installation, tests are also made of previously installed meters at the request of the consumer. A laboratory is maintained in which daily tests are made of gas furnished in the city of Baltimore. Regular and frequent tests are made of the gas and electricity furnished in other parts of the State (Code 1951, 1955 supp., Art. 78, secs. 1-88).

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, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the federal government, or otherwise (Code 1951, 1955 supp., Art. 78, sec. 5). The Public Service Commission is also represented on joint boards created by the Interstate Commerce Commission under the Federal Motor Carriers Act to hear and pass upon applications and proceedings pertaining to interstate motor carrier operation conducted in or through not more than three states.

Appropriations	1955	1956
General Fund	\$265,532	\$262,117
Staff: 41.		