

installment sales finance companies. All companies engaged in installment sales financing must secure a license from this office and make an annual report to it. The Division also conducts periodic examinations of the books and accounts of all licensees, investigates complaints of violations of the law, and institutes legal action to prosecute offenders (Code 1957, Art. 83, secs. 128-65).

Appropriations	1959	1960
General Funds	\$63,697	\$67,468
Staff: 11.		

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman: Stanford Hoff, 1961
 Francis V. du Pont, 1963; Albert L. Sklar, 1965
 Stanley Scherr, General Counsel, 1961
 Rudolf A. Carrico, People's Counsel
 Albert L. Deen, Executive Secretary
 Hugh H. Hunter, Chief Engineer
 E. Edward McLean, Chief Auditor

301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore 1

Telephone: Vernon 7-9000

The Public Service Commission, established in 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, Art. 78, secs. 5, 6, 12, 14). The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers, including steam and electric railroads, street railways, 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; and over all taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore. 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 (Code 1957, 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, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the Federal government, or otherwise (Code 1957, Art. 78, sec. 59). 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.