

the processing of all appeals to the Appellate Courts, and legal assistance to all indigent inmates who have legal problems concerning their incarceration. The law applies only to representation in or respect to the courts of Maryland. He must submit a report annually to the Board of Trustees and the Governor and General Assembly. The system commenced operation on January 1, 1972 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1975 Supp., Art. 27A).

Staff: 1975, 252; 1976, 275;
1977, 271.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman: Thomas J. Hatem, 1982

Michael Darr Barnes, 1978; William S. Baldwin, 1980; *Vacancy*, 1982; *Vacancy*, 1982.

James A. Pine, *General Counsel*

John K. Keane, Jr., *People's Counsel*

Frank J. Wasowicz, *Executive Secretary*

John W. Dorsey, *Chief Engineer*

Marshall E. Stokely, *Chief Auditor*

Joseph S. A. Giardina, *Director of Transportation*

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The Public Service Commission of Maryland was established by Chapter 180, Acts of 1910. The Commission consists of five Commissioners, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of whom is designated as Chairman (Chapter 756, Acts of 1976). The five Commissioners serve for six-year terms with the Chairman and two Commissioners being full time and two Commissioners may be part time. The General Counsel of the Commission is an attorney-at-law of this State and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Commission (Chapter 756, Acts of 1976). 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 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 franchise; (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. The Commission has the 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, 1975 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, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the Federal government, or otherwise (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., 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