

tion. The law applies only to representation in or respect to the courts of Maryland. The Public Defender must submit a report annually to the Board of Trustees, the Governor, and General Assembly (Code 1957, Art. 27A).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairperson: Frank O. Heintz, 1988

Lilo K. Schifter, 1984; Wayne B. Hamilton, 1985;
William A. Badger, 1986; Haskell N. Arnold,
1987.

James A. Pine, *General Counsel*

Ronald E. Hawkins, *Executive Secretary*

Gloria M. Jimenez, *Executive Director*

Ronald A. Decker, *Staff Counsel*

John W. Dorsey, *Chief Engineer*

Kirk J. Emge, *Chief Hearing Examiner*

Thomas L. Lovelace, Sr., *Director of Transportation*

Vacancy, *Chief Auditor*

Roland W. Wentworth, *Director, Rate Research and Economics*

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The Public Service Commission of Maryland was established by Chapter 180, Acts of 1910.

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 that come within the jurisdiction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (Chapter 613, Acts of 1959). The Public Service Commission also has jurisdiction over all taxicabs operating in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown. In addition, Commission licenses the taxicab drivers in Baltimore City.

The Commission exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, sewage disposal, and steam heating companies operating within the State. It 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 Baltimore City. 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 Public Convenience and Necessity in connection with an electric utility's application to construct a new generating station for transmission lines of a certain capacity (Code 1957, Art. 78, secs. 1 to 107).

In 1976, the General Assembly made extensive changes to the organization of the Commission (Chapter 756, Acts of 1976). One of these changes was the activation in late February 1978 of the Consumer Assistance Section. By December 1978, the Section had responded to 2,110 formal and informal complaints.

The Commission is 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 jointboards 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.

By Chapter 234, Acts of 1973, the General Assembly provided for a new method of financing the operations of the Public Service Commission. The filing fee of .0009 percent imposed on gross intrastate utility operating revenues was repealed. In its place utilities and common carriers under the jurisdiction of the Commission are assessed a proportionate share of the Commission's direct and indirect expenses based on their proportion of jurisdictional revenues.