

mission, and to expedite, in every way possible, final determination of all such actions and proceedings; to advise the commission and each commissioner, when so requested, in regard to all matters in connection with the powers and duties of the commission and of the members thereof, and generally to perform all duties and services as attorney and counsel to the commission which the commission may reasonably require of him.

The assistant, or assistants, appointed by the general counsel shall perform such duties as the general counsel may prescribe.

All actions and proceedings under this sub-title, and all actions and proceedings commenced and prosecuted by order of the commission, and all actions and proceedings to which the commission may be a party and in which any question arises under this sub-title, or under or concerning any order or action of the commission, shall be preferred over all other civil causes, except election causes, in all the courts of the State of Maryland, and shall be heard and determined in preference to all other civil business pending therein, excepting election causes, irrespective of position on the dockets of said courts. The same preference shall be granted upon application of the general counsel to the commission, or his assistant, in any action or proceedings in which the general counsel or his assistant may be allowed to intervene.

1910, ch. 180, sec. 7 (p. 349).

419. Every commissioner, the general counsel to the commission, the secretary of the commission and every person employed or appointed to office under, in the service or in connection with the said commission, is hereby forbidden and prohibited to solicit, suggest, request or recommend, directly or indirectly, to any common carrier, railroad corporation, street railroad corporation, gas company, electric light company, telephone company, telegraph company, water company and refrigerating company, or any other company or corporation subject to this sub-title, or to any of the provisions thereof, or to any officer, attorney, agent or employee thereof, the appointment of any person to any office, place, position or appointment. And every common carrier, railroad corporation, street railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone company, telegraph company, water company and all other companies or corporations subject to this sub-title, or any of the provisions thereof, and every officer, attorney, agent and employee thereof is hereby forbidden and prohibited to offer to any commissioner, general counsel to commission, to the secretary thereof, or to any person employed by the commission or by the general counsel of the commission, any office, place, appointment or position, or to offer to give to any commissioner, to the general counsel to the commission, to his assistant, to the secretary thereof or to any officer employed or appointed to office, or to any person employed in the service of the commission or in connection with the work of said commission, any free pass or transportation or any reduction in fares, to which the public generally are not entitled.