

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 the People's Counsel in any action or proceedings in which the general counsel or the People's Counsel may be allowed to intervene.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 354. 1912, sec. 419. 1910, ch. 180, sec. 7 (p. 349).
1924, ch. 48, sec. 419. 1927, ch. 201, sec. 7.

354. Every commissioner, the general counsel to the commission, the People's Counsel, 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 the commission, or the People's Counsel, to the secretary of the commission, or to any person employed by the commission, any office, place, appointment or position, or to offer to give to any commissioner, to the general counsel to the commission, to the People's Counsel, to the secretary of the commission 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, or any free carriage for freight or property, or any present, gift or gratuity of any kind. If any commissioner, general counsel to the commission, the People's Counsel, the secretary of the commission, or any person employed or appointed to office or in the service of the commission shall violate any provisions of this sub-title, the Governor shall remove him from the office held by him. No commissioner and no employee or official engaged in the service of or in any manner connected with the said commission shall hold any office or position, or be engaged in any business or avocation, the duties of which are incompatible with the duties of his office or employment as com-