

An. Code, 1924, sec. 369. 1912, sec. 431. 1910, ch. 180, sec. 19 (p. 361).

377. No common carrier, subject to the provisions of this sub-title, shall charge or receive any greater compensation in the aggregate for the transportation of passengers or of a like kind of property, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions, for a shorter than for a longer distance over the same line in the same direction, the shorter being included within the longer distance; but this shall not be construed as authorizing any such common carrier to charge and receive as great a compensation for a shorter as for a longer distance or haul. Upon application of a common carrier the commission may, by order, authorize it to charge less for longer than for shorter distances for the transportation of passengers or property in special cases after investigation by the commission, but the order must specify and prescribe the extent to which the common carrier making such application is relieved from the operation of this section, and only to the extent so specified and prescribed shall any common carrier be relieved from the operation and requirements of this section.

Every railroad corporation or other common carrier engaged in the transportation of freight shall, upon reasonable notice, furnish to all persons and corporations who may apply therefor and offer freight for transportation, sufficient and suitable cars for the transportation of such freight in carload lots. Every railroad corporation and street railroad corporation shall have sufficient cars and motive power to meet all requirements for the transportation of passengers and property which may reasonably be anticipated, unless relieved therefrom by order of the commission. In case, at any particular time, a common carrier has not sufficient cars to meet all requirements for the transportation of property in carload lots, all cars available to it for such purposes shall be distributed among the several applicants therefor, without discrimination between shippers, localities or competitive or non-competitive points, but preference may always be given in the supply of cars for shipment of live stock or perishable property. The commission shall have power to make, and by order shall make, reasonable regulations for the furnishing and distribution of freight cars to shippers, for the switching of the same, for the loading and unloading thereof, for demurrage charges in respect thereto, and for the weighing of cars and freights offered for shipment or transported by any common carrier.

This section referred to in holding that exemption of sale of coal in car load lots by Baltimore City ordinance licensing and regulating sale of coal is not arbitrary or discriminatory. *Jacobs v. Baltimore*, 172 Md. 360.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 370. 1912, sec. 432. 1910, ch. 180, sec. 20 (p. 362).

378. The commission and each commissioner shall have power and authority to administer oaths in all parts of the State to witnesses summoned to testify in any inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding; and also to administer oaths in all parts of the State whenever the exercise of such power is incidentally necessary or proper to enable the commission or a commissioner to perform a duty or to exercise a power.

The commission shall have the general supervision of all common carriers, railroads, street railroads, railroad corporations and street railroad corporations, and all other corporations and persons subject to the provisions of this sub-title as hereinbefore defined, and shall have the power to and shall examine the same and keep informed as to their general condition, their capitalization, their franchises and the manner in which their lines,