

shall have power to grant the permission and approval herein specified whenever it shall, after due hearing, determine that such construction or such exercise of the franchise or privilege is necessary or convenient for the public service.

No franchise, nor any right to or under any franchise to own or operate a railroad or street railroad, shall be assigned, transferred or leased, nor shall any contract or agreement with reference to or affecting any such franchise or right be valid or of any force or effect whatsoever, unless the assignment, transfer, lease, contract or agreement shall have been approved by the Commission. The permission and approval of the Commission to the exercise of a franchise under this section, or to the assignment, transfer or lease of a franchise under this section, shall not be construed to revive or validate any lapsed or invalid franchise, or to enlarge or add to the powers and privileges contained in the grant of any franchise or to waive any forfeiture.

No railroad or street railroad corporation, domestic or foreign, shall hereafter purchase or acquire, take or hold, any part of the capital stock of any railroad corporation or street railroad corporation, or other common carrier organized or existing under or by virtue of the laws of this State, unless authorized so to do by the Commission, and save where stock shall be transferred or held for the purpose of collateral security only with the consent of the Commission, no stock corporation of any description, domestic or foreign, other than a railroad corporation, or street railroad corporation, shall purchase or acquire, take or hold, more than ten per centum of the total capital stock issued by any railroad corporation, or street railroad corporation, or other common carrier organized or existing under or by virtue of the laws of this State. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the holding of stock heretofore lawfully acquired. Every contract, assignment, transfer or agreement for transfer of any stock by or through any person or corporation to any corporation, in violation of any provision of this Act, shall be void and of no effect, and no such transfer or assignment shall be made upon the books of any such railroad corporation or street railroad corporation, or shall be recognized as effective for any purpose.

APPROVAL OF ISSUES OF STOCK: MERGER.

SEC. 27. *And be it further enacted,* That a common carrier, railroad corporation, street railroad corporation, or other corporation subject to the provisions of this Act, organized or existing, or hereafter incorporated, under or by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland, may issue stocks, bonds, notes