

## CHAPTER 542.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments, Sections 447A of Article 23 of Bagby's Annotated Code of the Public Civil Laws of Maryland, title "Corporations," sub-title "Public Service Commission," as created by Chapter 445 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of the year 1914, relating to the abandonment, discontinuance or suspension in whole or in part of the exercise or franchises or rights by gas and electrical corporations, and the failure to file annual reports, and making said Section as hereby amended apply to all other corporations subject to the provisions of the said sub-title.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That Section 447A of Article 23 of Bagby's Annotated Code of the Public Civil Laws of Maryland, title "Corporations," sub-title "Public Service Commission," as created by Chapter 445 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of the year 1914, be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, so as to read as follows.

447A. No gas corporation or electrical corporation or other person or corporation subject to the provisions of this sub-title, shall abandon or discontinue in whole or in part the exercise of any right or privilege under any franchise granted to it in this state, in so far as such right or privilege is then actually being exercised for the public service, without first having obtained the permission and approval of the Commission, after due hearing and the determination by the Commission that the present or future public convenience and necessity permit of such abandonment or discontinuance of the exercise of such franchise or right. No such person or corporation shall exercise any right or privilege under any franchise in this State, the exercise of which for the public service shall have been suspended for more than one year, without first having obtained the permission and approval of the Commission; and no gas corporation or electrical corporation, or other person or corporation subject to the provisions of this sub-title, which prior to January 1, 1924, has for five consecutive years failed to file, or has never filed, any annual report with the Commission, pursuant to Section 445 of this Article, shall begin any new construction, or exercise any right or privilege under any franchise in this State, except insofar as such right or privilege is now actually being exercised,