

panies, and all persons and associations of persons, whether incorporated or not, operating automobiles, or motor cars, or motor vehicles, for public use, in the conveyance of persons or property within this State; and every municipal corporation of this State engaged in the business of manufacturing and supplying or of supplying gas or electricity for other than municipal purposes shall be included within the terms "Gas Corporation" and "Electrical Corporation," as defined in the next preceding section of this sub-title, and shall be subject, as other gas and electrical corporations are, to the provisions of this sub-title, except that the provisions of Sections 445 and 448 of Article 23 of the Annotated Code of Maryland shall not apply to such municipalities as owned, operated and maintained on and prior to the date of the creation of the Public Service Commission, and presently own, operate and maintain a gas or an electrical plant devoted in whole or in part to the supplying of the inhabitants of such municipalities with gas or electricity, for lighting or power purposes, nor shall said Sections 445 and 448 apply to the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown nor to such municipality or municipalities having a population in excess of 20,000, and an assessable basis in excess of \$15,000,000, when the majority of voters of such municipality or municipalities shall vote in favor of municipal ownership of lighting or power plant.

447. No gas corporation or electrical corporation incorporated under the laws of this or any other State shall begin construction or exercise any right or privilege under any franchise hereafter granted or under any franchise heretofore granted but not heretofore actually exercised, without first having obtained the permission and approval of the commission. Before such certificate shall be issued a certified copy of the charter of such corporation shall be filed in the office of the Commission, together with a verified statement of the president and secretary of the corporation, showing that it has received the required consent of the proper municipal authorities. No municipality, except the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, shall build, maintain and operate for other than municipal purposes, any works or systems for the manufacture and supplying of gas or of electricity for lighting purposes, without a certificate of authority granted by the Commission, provided, however, that this section shall not apply to such municipalities as owned, operated and maintained on and prior to the date of the creation of the Public Service Commis-