

(1951 Edition), title "Public Service Commission", relating to the abandonment or discontinuance of transit service to suburban communities.

SECTION 1. *Beit enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That Section 48 of Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Public Service Commission", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

48. No common carrier, railroad corporation or street railroad corporation shall abandon or discontinue in whole or in part, the exercise of any franchise or right, under any provision of the railroad law, or any other law, in so far as it is then actually being exercised for the public service, without the permission and approval of the Commission first obtained, after due hearing, and the determination by the Commission that the present or future public convenience or necessity permit of such abandonment or discontinuance of the exercise of such franchise or right. The Commission is hereby authorized to require the continuance of any service rendered the public by any such common carrier, railroad corporation or street railroad corporation under any such franchise, right, or permits after its expiration date, if any, until the determination by the Commission that present or future public convenience or necessity permits such abandonment or discontinuance. Provided, however, that such determination shall be made by the Commission not later than ninety days from the expiration date of such permit. *And further provided that whenever the Public Service Commission permits and approves any such abandonment or discontinuance of any such franchise or right, in whole or in part, involving service to and/or from suburban communities, the Public Service Commission shall consider the applications of any individual, firm or corporation to acquire the franchise or right to render such service and shall grant such franchise or right to the applicant best qualified to render such service. If the abandoned franchise or right, as acquired by the common carrier, railroad corporation or street railroad corporation abandoning or discontinuing it or as acquired by its predecessor, extended from mid-city to suburban termini, or was operated between such termini during most of the time of its existence, or for an aggregate of fifteen (15) years or more then the franchise granted under the provisions of this Section shall likewise extend between such mid-city and suburban termini.*