

for such report or answer, shall be liable to forfeit the sum of \$100 for each day it is in default with respect to any one or more of the foregoing requirements.

(b) Any public service company which violates any of the provisions of this article, other than the preceding subsection, shall be liable to forfeit to the State of Maryland a sum not exceeding \$2500. for every offense. Every violation shall be a separate offense, and, if the violation is continuing, every day or fraction thereof it continues, shall be a separate offense.

(c) For the purposes of determining whether there is a violation under this section, the act of any director, officer, or other person acting within the scope of his official duties in any public service company shall be deemed to be the act of the company.

96. (Rates.)

In any action by any public service company for the collection of any charge, no recovery shall be had if in the transaction on which suit is brought, the company has demanded a rate in excess of that which is lawful under this article at the time.

97. (Void transactions.)

Every contract, assignment, transfer or agreement for transfer or purchase of any stock in violation of any provision of this article shall be entirely void and ineffective for any purpose.

98. (Severability.)

If any part or provision of this Article or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall be confined to the particular provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment is rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Article or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and to this end the provisions hereof are declared to be severable.

99. (Saving Clause.)

Nothing in this article shall affect the terms of the members of the Public Service Commission in office at the effective date of this Act; and nothing in this article shall be construed as invalidating any action lawfully taken or rights lawfully acquired by any person prior to the effective date of this act.

100. (Short Title.)

This article may be cited as "The Public Service Commission Law."

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1955.

Approved April 18, 1955.