

without lengthening his successor's term. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor, *with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, for the unexpired term.

8.

The Governor, *with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, may remove any commissioner for incompetency or misconduct in office, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 41, Sections 54-56.

12.

The general counsel of the Commission shall be an attorney at law of this State, and shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Commission *and the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*. His compensation shall be fifty-five hundred dollars (\$5500.00) per year. His term of office shall be six years, and he shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments are made. He may be removed by the Governor, *with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, for the same reasons, and in the same manner as commissioners.

14.

The people's counsel shall be an attorney at law of this State. He shall be appointed by the Governor, *with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. He shall receive an annual salary as provided in the budget.

15B.

The people's counsel, *with the approval of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, may hire from time to time, as needed, in connection with specific proceedings before the Commission, experts in the utility regulation field including but not limited to economists, cost of capital experts, rate design experts, and, to the extent Commission personnel cannot be utilized, accountants, engineers, and transportation specialists. An aggregate sum of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for compensation and/or expenses of these experts shall be provided in the budget, and if not used for this purpose, shall revert to the treasury; nothing contained herein precludes the people's counsel, *with the prior approval of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*, from applying to the Board of Public Works for additional funds to be allotted from the General Emergency Fund for the purposes expressed herein if the budgetary appropriation is insufficient to meet the people's counsel's expenses in representing the people of Maryland.

57.

The Commission shall make an annual report to the *Secretary of Licensing and Regulation* for review and transmittal to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before the third Wednesday of February of each year, which shall contain copies of all Commission rules, regulations and orders of the calendar year covered