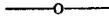


sion. This office also conducts periodic examinations of the books and accounts of all licensees. Investigations of complaints of violations of the law are made, and legal action instituted to prosecute offenders (Code 1951, Art. 83, secs. 116-152).

Appropriations	1953	1954
General Fund	\$49,965	\$49,263
Staff: 10.		



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman: John H. Hessey, 1955

Frank Harper, 1959; Wilmer Fell Davis, 1957

Albert L. Deen, Executive Secretary

Charles D. Harris, General Counsel, 1955

Joseph Allen, People's Counsel

Hugh H. Hunter, Chief Engineer

E. Edward McLean, Chief Auditor

1701 Munsey Building, Baltimore 2 Telephone: Lexington 9-7510

The Public Service Commission was established in 1910. The Commission, composed of three members, is appointed by the Governor. The term of each member is six years, one term expiring every two years. The Governor also appoints the General Counsel, for a term of six years, and the People's Counsel who serves at the pleasure of the Governor (Code 1951, Art. 78, sec. 4). The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers including steam and electric railroads, street railways, sleeping car companies, bus lines, express companies, steam boat companies, power boats, ferry companies, carriers by aircraft, toll bridges, and all carriers, generally, engaged in the public transportation of passengers or freight within the State of Maryland. The Commission also exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, heating and refrigerating companies operating within the State. All taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore are also under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission has the power to fix both minimum and maximum rates and to suspend schedules pending the determination of the reasonableness of the proposed rates. Public utilities may not abandon or discontinue the exercise of any franchise without permission of the Commission. All gas and electric meters are tested by the Commission prior to their installation, tests are also made of previously installed meters at the request of the consumer. A laboratory is maintained in which daily tests are made of gas furnished in the City of Baltimore. Regular and frequent tests are made of the gas and electricity furnished in other parts of the State (Code 1951, Art. 78, secs. 1-88).

The Commission is also authorized to make joint investigations, hold joint hearings, and issue joint or other concurrent orders in conjunction with any official board or commission of any state or the federal government under agreements and compacts between states, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the federal government, or otherwise (Code 1951, Art. 78, sec. 5). The Public Service Commission is also rep-