

COUNSEL OF THE COMMISSION: DUTIES.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the General Counsel of the Commission to represent and appear for the Commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under this Act, or under or in reference to any act, order or proceeding of the Commission, and if directed to do so by the Commission, to intervene, if possible, in any action or proceeding in which any such question is involved; to commence and prosecute all actions and proceedings directed or authorized by the Commission, and to expedite, in every way possible, final determination of all such actions and proceedings; to advise the Commission and each Commissioner, when so requested, in regard to all matters in connection with the powers and duties of the Commission and of the members thereof, and generally to perform all duties and services as attorney and counsel to the Commission which the Commission may reasonably require of him.

The assistant, or assistants, appointed by the General Counsel shall perform such duties as the General Counsel may prescribe.

All actions and proceedings under this Act, and all actions and proceedings commenced and prosecuted by order of the Commission, and all actions and proceedings to which the Commission may be a party and in which any question arises under this Act, or under or concerning any order or action of the Commission, shall be preferred over all other civil causes, except election causes, in all the courts of the State of Maryland, and shall be heard and determined in preference to all other civil business pending therein, excepting election causes, irrespective of position on the dockets of said courts. The same preference shall be granted upon application of the General Counsel to the Commission, or his assistant, in any action or proceedings in which the General Counsel or his assistant may be allowed to intervene.

CERTAIN ACTS PROHIBITED: GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That every Commissioner, the General Counsel to the Commission, the Secretary of the Commission and every person employed or appointed to office under, in the service or in connection with the said Commission, is hereby forbidden and prohibited to solicit, suggest, request or recommend, directly or indirectly, to any common carrier, railroad corporation, street railroad corporation, gas company, electric light company, telephone company, tele-