

(1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 118 of Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

118.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to wrongfully and maliciously connect, disconnect, tap or interfere or tamper with any of the canals, springs, reservoirs, tunnels, mounds, dams, plugs, mains, pipes, conduits, connections, taps, valves, engines and machinery belonging to any company, MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR AGENCY OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT using or engaged in the supplying of water for domestic, agricultural or manufacturing purposes, or [either] ANY of them; or to make any connection with any such canals, springs, reservoirs, tunnels, mounds, dams, plugs, mains, pipes, conduits, connections, taps, valves, engines and machinery, for the purpose of wasting or using such water, or to in [anywise] ANY MANNER tamper with any meters used to register the water consumed, unless such person or persons shall be duly authorized by or be in the employ of such company [.] MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR AGENCY OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT. Nothing in this section shall in any way interfere with [the lawful supervision and control] LAWFUL GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION of water companies, their canals, springs, reservoirs, tunnels, mounds, dams, plugs, mains, pipes, conduits, connections, taps, valves, engines and machinery [by the municipalities]. Nothing in this section shall interfere with any right now existing in any COUNTY OR municipality to pass ordinances relating to and regulating [such] water companies.

(b) [The provisions of this section apply to any publicly owned water supply company in Washington County.

(c) ] Any person or persons found guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be imprisoned not exceeding six months or fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or both or either, at the discretion of the court [; provided, that none of the provisions of this section shall apply to Carroll County].