

of one per centum per month from and after the time said benefit charge is in default. The annual benefit charges as above specified shall be a first lien upon the property against which they are assessed, subject only to prior State and county taxes but no such charge shall continue as a lien for a period longer than two years from the date upon which same became in default unless the said lien is reduced to a judgment or a decree and recorded in the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County and for the purpose of reducing the same to a decree the following procedure shall be followed: At any time within two years from said default the Commission may file its bill on the equity side of said court against all persons alleged to be in default setting forth the date of the levy of said charge the property against which the same was levied and the amount thereof and shall pray that the said property and the said owner shall be declared to be indebted to the Commission in the amount claimed. The clerk shall thereupon issue an order of publication against all of the defendants in said cause which order shall state the substance of the bill and shall notify all of said persons to answer said bill on or before a certain date to be named therein which date shall not be less than forty nor more than sixty days after the filing of said bill. Said order of publication shall be published three times in any newspaper published within the county in which such suit is filed. After proof of publication and on the date named therein or any date to which said hearing may be continued, the court shall hear the said Commission and any person having answered said bill, and as to all who have not answered said bill shall declare a lien established upon the property set forth in said bill, and as to those persons who have answered said bill shall determine the right of the matter and enter a decree accordingly. Said decree when in favor of the Commission shall have the effect of a lien upon the property mentioned in said bill. The clerk shall at the request of the Commission issue a subpoena or summons against any of such defendants, and as to any of said defendants returned "summoned," and against whom a decree has been entered, said decree shall have the force and effect of a judgment in personam against the said defendants summoned as well as imposing a lien on the land. Immediately after the filing of said decree the clerk of the court shall enter the same in the proper judgment records of said court against each of the defendants named in said bill against whom a decree has been filed, the name of said defendants and the amount decreed against each of them, together with the costs. The clerk of the court shall be allowed fifty cents for each defendant named in said bill, which shall be paid by the Commission and recovered by the Commission as costs. The clerk of the court shall further tax such sum as the Commission shall certify in said Equity Court as the costs of publication, not in any case to exceed one dollar for each defendant. Such judgment shall remain a lien upon the property mentioned in said bill and a judgment in personam against each defendant summoned until the same is paid, any statute of limitations to the contrary notwithstanding, and may be collected and enforced by said Commission at any time, as other judgments in said court are