

97-2. AUTHORITY GRANTED.

A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY:

(1) ACQUIRE AND IMPROVE PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS AFTER RECEIVING A REQUEST THAT THE PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM BE TAKEN INTO THE COUNTY SYSTEM.

(2) LEVY AN ANNUAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT ON THE PROPERTIES SERVED BY THE PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM TO REIMBURSE THE COUNTY FOR THE COSTS OF ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT.

B. AFTER ACQUISITION OF A PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM, IT SHALL BE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PURSUANT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S RATES AND REGULATIONS.

C. IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS GRANTED BY THIS ARTICLE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY ORDINANCE MAY ADOPT ALL NECESSARY REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE, ACQUISITION, IMPROVEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS. THE ORDINANCE SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE METHOD OF DETERMINING THE ANNUAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS TO BE LEVIED AGAINST THE PROPERTIES SERVED BY THE PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING THE COUNTY FOR ALL COSTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND ACQUISITION. THE ORDINANCE SHALL SPECIFY THE TIME AND MANNER OF PAYMENT, WHICH MAY NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN (15) YEARS. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY CHARGE INTEREST ON THE AMOUNT OF COUNTY FUNDS PROVIDED TO ACQUIRE AND IMPROVE THE SYSTEM, AND SHALL DETERMINE THE RATE OF INTEREST IMPOSED.

D. ANNUAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE A FIRST LIEN UPON THE PROPERTIES AGAINST WHICH THEY ARE ASSESSED UNTIL PAID, SUBJECT ONLY TO PRIOR STATE AND COUNTY TAXES. IF ANY PROPERTY IS SOLD FOR STATE AND COUNTY TAXES AND A SURPLUS REMAINS AFTER THE SALE, THEN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UPON PETITION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT, MAY BE ALLOWED THE PAYMENT OF THEIR LIEN.

97-3. NOTICE TO PUBLIC.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS TO THE EXISTING LIENS AND CHARGES AGAINST ANY PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 97-2 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL KEEP A PUBLIC RECORD OF ALL NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTIES, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE BENEFIT CHARGES. THIS PUBLIC RECORD SHALL BE FOUND AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF CHARLES COUNTY THAT ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CLERK