

ninety days after the completion of such grading, paving, sewerage or otherwise improving, cause to be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, Maryland, a statement showing the whole amount expended in such grading, paving, sewerage or otherwise improving, and the names of the persons among whom the said sum has been apportioned, and the amount apportioned to each, and a general description of the land owned by each of said parties upon which such sums are intended to operate as a lien, and said statement shall constitute a lien on said property for the space of five years, and no longer, unless the same shall be revived or enforced by scire facias as provided in the next succeeding section.

79. Said lien shall be enforceable by scire facias issued out of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, and said writ of scire facias shall be served by the Sheriff of Allegany County upon the party against whom said lien is filed, or one of them if more than one, or left at his usual place of abode, or left at the usual place of abode of one of them, if said party or parties reside in the City of Cumberland, or Allegany County, or if none of said parties live in said City or County, he shall set up the same on the land or premises against which said lien is filed, or deliver the same to any person in possession thereof, and shall then return the same to the Circuit Court for Allegany County, "made known," and upon such scire facias the defendants may rely upon any defense which would render the imposition of such lien void or operate as a discharge thereof, excepting that no question as to the validity of such lien upon any matter of form shall be heard by any Court in said State, and such scire facias may issue at any time within five years from the filing of the statement required by the last preceding section, but any defendant intending to dispute the validity of said lien and wishing to test the same before the expiration of said time may at any time after the filing of said statement give notice to said Mayor and City Council in writing that he disputes the validity of such lien and wishes to test the same so as to free his property from said lien claim, and in such case, unless said Mayor and City Council shall issue a scire facias thereon against said property within sixty days after the receipt of such notice, said lien shall be waived and avoided as against his property, and in all cases shall stand for trial at the first term of Court after the issuing thereof; provided the same shall have been served on the defendants in one of the manners hereinbefore provided, and a return of such service made by