

sub-title "Vacant Lots", as said section was enacted by Chapter 516 of the Acts of 1951, and to enact in lieu thereof a new Section 600A to stand in the place and stead of the section so repealed, providing that in certain circumstances the County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County shall have power to abate a menace to public health or safety on unimproved or vacant property and to recover the costs of such abatement by a civil action or to assess and recover the same as a special tax upon said property.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 600A of the Code of Public Local Laws of Anne Arundel County (1947 Edition), being Article 2 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Anne Arundel County", sub-title "Vacant Lots", as said section was enacted by Chapter 516 of the Acts of 1951, be and it is hereby repealed and that a new Section 600A be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof to stand in the place and stead of the section so repealed and to read as follows:*

*600A. The Board of County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County shall have power, whenever the owner, or person in charge of any unimproved lot or vacant premises shall fail, after written notice, to remove any menace to the public health or safety arising from the growth of weeds, the accumulation of refuse, the presence of stagnant water or of combustible material, to enter upon the premises by its officers and agents and cause such menace to be abated. Notice of the reasonable costs incurred in abating such menace shall be delivered or mailed to the person in charge of the property and to the person in whose name the property is assessed for taxation. If the costs shall not be paid within sixty days from the giving of such notice the County Commissioners may recover the costs by civil action, or may fix a date for a hearing to determine whether the costs should be assessed against the property as a special tax. Notice of such hearing shall be posted on the property and sent by registered mail to the last known address of the person in whose name the property is assessed for taxation. If the name of the owner of the property be unknown, or the owner be a non-resident of Anne Arundel County, notice of the proposed assessment and of the date and place of the hearing shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in some newspaper having general circulation in the County. At the hearing, unless good cause to the contrary be shown, the County Commissioners shall*