

(1959 Edition, being Article 23 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Wicomico County", sub-title "Urban Service Districts", relating to the service charges in an urban service district in Wicomico County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 526 of Article 23 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Wicomico County (1959 Edition, being Article 23 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Wicomico County", sub-title "Urban Service Districts", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, to read as follows:

526.

For the purpose of providing funds for maintenance, [repairing and operating its water supply, sewerage or drainage systems, and for its operation and other expenses, including proper depreciation allowances, and for] *repair and operation of any urban service, which shall include operating expenses, other expenses, proper depreciation allowance and for interest on and the retirement of bonds as specified in this sub-title, the Commission is hereby empowered to make [a ready-to-serve charge on water and a charge for the upkeep of sewers chargeable against all properties having a connection with any water pipe or sewer pipe under its supervision or ownership. Said rate for both ready-to-serve and such charge for the upkeep on sewers shall be uniform throughout such district,] service charges against all properties in any district for all urban services being received by those properties. The rate for any service shall be uniform for that service throughout such district,* subject to such changes from time to time as may be necessary. The [charge] *charges* for the upkeep on sewers and *storm water systems* shall be reasonable and collected annually in the same manner as benefit assessments are collected and shall be a first lien against all property having a connection with any sewer pipe under its supervision or ownership. The rates for water service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge, which shall be based upon [the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings,] *the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings,* said meter being required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the Commission. If the Commission at any time shall not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected to the system, then a flat rate shall be charged all properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each district and based upon the amount of water used. Bills for the amount of the charges as above specified shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually by the Secretary of the Commission, as the Commission may determine, to each property served, and shall be thereon payable at the office of the County Treasurer; and if any bill remains unpaid after thirty days from date of sending, the Commission shall, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, turn off the water from the property in question, and the water shall not be turned on again until said bill shall have been paid, including a penalty of Two Dollars (\$2.00). [If any bill shall remain unpaid for sixty (60) days after being sent by the Commission, it shall be collectible from the owner of the