

*source or sources of funds for payment of said interest and principal and where the source is ad valorem taxes shall certify the amount to the County Commissioners of Wicomico County for collection by taxation as provided in Section 519.*

**526. Service charges.**

*For the purpose of providing funds for maintenance, 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 subtitle, the Commission is hereby empowered to make service charges against all properties receiving any urban services for the services received by those properties. The rate for any service shall be uniform for that service throughout each sub-district, subject to such changes from time to time as may be necessary. Any charges for the upkeep of urban service installations shall be reasonable and shall be collected annually in the same manner as benefit assessments are collected and shall be a first lien against all properties in the service area in which they are imposed. Charges for water and sewer service may be based either on a meter or on a flat rate in the discretion of the Commission; provided, that where water meters are installed, they shall be placed on each water connection at the sole expense of the Commission. The Commission shall establish a rate for each sub-district based either on a metered flow or a flat rate with a minimum charge for each property connection regardless of the amount of flow of the number of facilities on the property using the water or sewer. The rate for each sub-district shall be uniform except that the Commission may maintain both a metered charge and a flat rate charge in the same area where circumstances so require. Bills for the amount of all service charges shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually by the County Treasurer as the Commission may determine, to each property served, and shall be thereon payable at the office of the County Treasurer; and if any service bill remains unpaid after forty-five (45) days from date of sending, it shall be subject to a five percent (5%) delinquent charge; and after sixty days (60) interest shall also be charged at the rate of one-half percent (½%) per month; and if the bill is for water service, the Commission shall give written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, that the water or sewer service will be terminated in five (5) days and not reinstated until said bill and delinquent charge have been paid together with a turn-off charge of Three Dollars (\$3.00). Upkeep and service charges shall be collectible in the same manner as other debts are collectible in the County and shall be a first lien against the property against which they are imposed.*

**528. Acquisition of Existing Systems.**

*The Commission is authorized and empowered to purchase or acquire by gift, any existing water or sewerage systems in Wicomico County, or any other water or sewerage systems only partially in said County, which in its judgment are desirable or necessary for the purpose of providing adequate water or sewerage service or both for the residents of said County. The Commission is further authorized to purchase or acquire by gift any installations or equipment necessary or useful in the maintenance or operation of any existing urban service operating in said County.*