

County (1957 Edition, being Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Howard County", sub-title "Metropolitan Commission", relating to the Metropolitan Commission in Howard County and requiring public hearings on proposed sub-districts, granting a right of appeal to the County Commissioners, providing for the approval of the County Commissioners to such sub-district, to contracts for water and sewerage connections, and to purchase of water and sewerage systems.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 127, 138, 139 and 140(a) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Howard County (1957 Edition, being Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Howard County", sub-title "Metropolitan Commission", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

127.

Whenever ~~["fifteen"]~~ *thirty (30)* property owners residing in any locality in Howard County (*joint owners of a single piece of property shall be counted as one owner for purposes of this section*) shall in writing petition the Commission to have said locality, the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition, constituted as a sub-district, then if the Commission, in its discretion, shall deem it expedient to constitute said locality as a sub-district in accordance with the prayer of said petition, and if the County Commissioners consent thereto, the Commission shall cause plats of such locality to be made under the supervision of its chief engineer, showing the proposed water, sewerage or drainage systems ~~[""]~~. *Whenever, and as such plats are completed, the Commission shall give notice by publication in at least one newspaper published generally within the county, for each of three consecutive weeks, and by handbills posted and circulated in the locality which is proposed to be constituted a sub-district, and shall state in said notice the proposed boundaries of said sub-district, and shall further state therein that a plat of the proposed sub-district showing the proposed water, sewerage or drainage systems may be inspected at the Commission's office and that any person interested in the creation of such sub-district will be heard by the Commission at a time specified in said notice but not less than ten days after the last publication thereof.*

*If twenty (20) residents and landowners in the proposed sub-district shall thereupon, and within ten days after the last day of said publication of said notice, file with the Commission a petition protesting against the creation of the sub-district, the Commission shall grant them a hearing within ten days after such petition is filed in the office of the Commission and not less than five days after notice of the time and place of said hearing by advertisement published in one newspaper published generally within the County, and by personal notices addressed to any one or more persons whose names are signed to said petition. After due hearing as aforesaid, the Commission shall decide upon the reasonableness of the objections stated in said petition and shall dispose of same by written order concurred in by a majority of the Commissioners. This order shall be published in the same manner as notices are herein required to be published and a copy of said order shall be mailed to at least one of the petitioners. If the petitioners are not satisfied with the Commission's decision, they shall have the right to take and enter,*