

## CHAPTER 233

## (House Bill 267)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 128 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," subtitle "Metropolitan Commission," relating to the Metropolitan Commission in Howard County, authorizing the commission to prepare preliminary surveys, preliminary plans, and preliminary specifications and estimates for use at public hearings where contemplated improvements will be presented changing the time and permissible manner of notice of certain hearings thereon, and providing that ten residents and landowners, who would be subject to annual front foot assessments if the improvements are approved may protest and appeal the approval of the proposed improvements.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 128 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Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Howard County," subtitle "Metropolitan Commission," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

## 128.

The Commission shall cause *preliminary* surveys, *preliminary* plans, *preliminary* specifications and estimates to be made for water supply, sewerage and drainage systems in those portions of Howard County, or any other project within or outside Howard County as referred to in Section 138 herein, in which the Commission exercises authority, and shall divide each subdistrict into water, sewerage and drainage districts in such a way as shall, in its judgment, best serve the needs of the various communities, and shall promote convenience and economy of installation and operation. Whenever, and as, such preliminary plans are completed, the Commission shall give notice by publication in one *or more* newspapers published within the County, for three weeks, and by handbills posted and circulated in the localities where said improvements are contemplated, and shall state in said notice and probable cost of the contemplated improvements, and shall further state therein that *preliminary* plans of the improvements may be inspected at the Commission's office and that any person interested in said improvements will be heard by the Commission at a time to be specified in the notice, but not less than **[ten]** *twenty* days after first publication thereof. If ten residents and landowners, (*joint owners of a single piece of property being counted as one owner for purposes of this section*) who would be subject to annual front foot assessments if the contemplated improvements are approved, in the district wherein the improvements are contemplated shall thereupon, and within ten days after the last of said publications of said notice, file a petition with the Commission protesting against the proposed improvement, the Commission shall grant them a hearing within ten days after such petition is filed in the office of the Commission and after not less than five days' notice of the time and place of said hearing by advertisement published in one *or more* newspapers