

## CHAPTER 549

(Senate Bill 622)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 652 (b) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health", subtitle "Sanitary Districts", to authorize sanitary commissions created by the petition of property owners to dispense with the ~~preparation of required plans for water or sewerage facilities for any projects described in the petition creating the district.~~ **NECESSITY OF COMPLYING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 653 OF ARTICLE 43 WITH RESPECT TO ANY PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICE PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.**

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 652 (b) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health", subtitle "Sanitary Districts", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

652.

(b) Whenever twenty-five property owners, and also, in Dorchester County 25% of the property owners, residing in any locality in a county, shall in writing petition the commission to have said locality (the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition) constituted as a new sanitary district or added to an existing sanitary district to which such locality is contiguous, the commission, if it approves, shall cause to be made a preliminary engineering survey of the project to determine the feasibility and probable cost of providing such area with utilities, whether water, sewer or otherwise. If the commission disapproves of the project or is unable or unwilling to undertake or obtain such preliminary engineering survey, it shall so inform the petitioners by mail giving to each of said petitioners an estimate of the cost of making or obtaining such a preliminary engineering survey, and no further action shall be taken on said project unless and until the persons signing the petition therefor cause the estimated cost of such preliminary engineering survey to be paid to the commission, which shall then proceed to make or obtain such preliminary engineering survey. Upon any locality becoming a sanitary district or a part of an existing sanitary district, pursuant to the provisions of this section, the commission shall repay from the first funds available for such purpose, including the issuance of bonds, any sums furnished by any of the petitions to defray the cost of the preliminary engineering survey. Upon completion of the preliminary engineering survey, the commission shall give notice by publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or counties in which the proposed sanitary district or enlargement thereof lies once a week for three (3) successive weeks, which notice shall describe the proposed sanitary district or enlargement, together with the time and place of a hearing to be held, at which hearing a report shall be made as to the then estimated approximate cost of the facilities contemplated and the establishment of a sanitary district. Such report shall also include an estimate of the amount, if any, to be financed by the issuance of bonds pursuant to the authority of Sec-