

be paid in the office of the Commission or elsewhere as the Commission may designate.

439U.

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subtitle the Commission may make a charge for every sewer and water connection. The funds derived from such charges may be used for payment of principal and interest on bonds, accumulating funds for capital improvements, for acquisition and construction of water, sewerage and drainage systems and the operation and maintenance thereof and for the purchase of equipment and supplies necessary to the operation of the Commission. Connection charges may be established from time to time by the Commission subject to the approval of the Board. Such charges may be based upon such reasonable classifications as the Commission may determine and such classifications may vary within any water, sewer, or drainage system and among any such systems depending on any special circumstances which the Commission finds exist. The charges herein provided shall not be limited to the costs to the Commission for making such connections. The Commission is empowered to determine the manner in which such charges shall be payable.

439V.

For the purpose of providing funds for maintaining, repairing, and operating its water supply, sewerage, or drainage systems, and for its operation and other expenses, including proper depreciation allowances, and for interest on and the retirements of bonds as specified in this subtitle, the Commission may make the following charges:

(1) A water and sewer service charge. The rates for water and sewer 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 meter shall be required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the Commission, and it shall remain the property of the Commission. Such rates shall be classified within the county in such a manner as the Commission deems advisable; provided, however, that such classification shall be based upon the quantities of water used and shall be, insofar as possible, uniform throughout the county. 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 on properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each sanitary system and based upon the ready-to-serve charge and the amount of water used. Bills for water and sewer charges shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually as the Commission may determine to each property served and shall be payable at the office of the Commission or such other place as the Commission may designate. Such charges shall be a lien upon the property served and collectible as elsewhere herein provided. If any bill remains unpaid after thirty (30) days from date of sending, the Commission, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known