

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 shall be established from time to time by the Commission subject to the approval of the County Commissioners. Such charges may be based upon such reasonable classifications as the Commissioners 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.

10A-10-21.

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 property 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 uniform throughout each such system operated by the Commission but the Commission may make such classifications as it deems advisable within any such system based upon quantities of water used. 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 semiannually 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 address of the owner, shall turn off the water from the property in question; and the water shall not be turned on again until said bill has been paid, including a penalty of three dollars (\$3.00).*

(2) *A charge for the construction and upkeep of drainage water and sewer systems against all properties benefited by such drainage system or having a connection with any water main or sewer under its operation or ownership. The charge for the construction and upkeep of the drainage system and the water and sewer system, if any, shall be made upon such reasonable basis as the Commission may determine and shall be collected annually in the same manner as are front foot benefit assessments against all property benefited*