

*approval of a petition of the majority of the property owners whose property* SUBMITTED BY THE OWNERS OF A MAJORITY PORTION OF THE PROPERTY WHICH abuts on the road to be constructed or improved requesting that said roads be taken into the county roads system. In the exercise of the powers granted by this section, the County Commissioners may by proper ordinance, passed in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), adopt all necessary rules and conditions for the acceptance, construction, and maintenance of such roads and/or other authorized improvements by the county. Such ordinance may also provide for annual benefit assessments to be levied against the abutting properties for the purpose of reimbursing the county for the cost of such improvements and the time and manner of payment, but not to exceed ten years. Annual benefit assessments shall be a first lien upon the property against which they are assessed, until paid, subject only to prior State and county taxes, and if any property be sold for State and county taxes, and there remains a surplus, then the County Commissioners may upon petition to the Circuit Court be allowed the payment of their lien.

589B.

*For the purpose of giving notice to the general public as to existing liens and charges against any property for benefit assessments, the County Commissioners shall keep a public record of all names of property owners and the locations of said property, and the amount of said benefit charges among the Land Records of Allegany County under the supervision of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and the recordation with said Clerk of said benefit assessments shall be legal notice of such liens.*

589C.

*The County Commissioners shall, on or before January 1, of each year, certify its benefit assessments hereunder to the Treasurer of Allegany County for collection from the property owners affected, and the Treasurer shall add the benefit assessments to the State and county property tax bills for collection each year, subject to discount and interest allowances or charges as now provided by law for Allegany County taxes on real property, and upon failure of payment of said benefit assessments, they may be deducted from any surplus in the hands of the Treasurer after a sale for non-payment of State and county property taxes under proper order of the Circuit Court. In the alternative, the lien created in favor of the annual benefit assessments may be enforced by bill in equity or by action in personam.*

589D.

*Before the powers granted by this section to the County Commissioners shall be exercised there shall first be the petition of property owners as hereinbefore provided requesting improvements; public hearing upon said petition after ten days' notice in a newspaper regularly published in Allegany County; approval of said petition by the County Commissioners; and the passage of an appropriate ordinance, pursuant to the authority of this section, setting forth the improvements being constructed, the property owners affected, and all material terms of the annual benefit assessments*