

it shall be the duty of the vendor or agent to furnish a statement to [said commission] *the Department* setting forth all names and addresses of persons having any interest or claims against said property whatsoever, which shall be verified by an oath in writing.

(b) Thereupon it shall be the duty of [said commission] *the Department* to notify personally or by registered mail, return receipt requested, all persons having any interest whatsoever in said property, and in addition thereto the [commission] *Department* shall give three weeks' notice of its intention to purchase said property in a newspaper or newspapers published within said county where the property is located, and each person having any claim whatsoever against said property shall file its, his or her claim with [said commission] *the Department* on or before the expiration date mentioned in said notice, at which time any and all persons will be heard and their rights determined by the [commission] *Department*, which said hearing shall be final. In the event of failure to agree to the purchase price or condition of purchase of said water or sewerage system, whether privately or municipally owned, the [said commission] *Department* may acquire the same by condemnation in the same manner as it is authorized to acquire land by this chapter. In the condemnation of privately-owned water or sewerage systems the jury shall take into consideration as a part of their award any payment, contribution or tax upon the respective lot owners or purchasers toward the construction of said system, and where said system or systems have been built in connection with or for the purpose of developing homesites, subdivisions or villages, or by any individuals, firm or corporation, and such system or systems have been offered as an inducement for the purchase of lots or land therein, the jury shall deduct from the determined value of the plant or system such sum as it may reasonably determine was added to the purchase price of said land or lots in the sale thereof for the purpose of constructing said systems.

(c) Privately-owned systems shall be taken under said condemnation by the [commission] *Department* free and clear of all debts and liens, but [said commission] *the Department* shall make a party defendant any person, firm or corporation having any recorded lien or encumbrance against the same, and the circuit court is hereby empowered and authorized to determine the respective amounts due the defendants, and from and after payment into court or to the proper parties the [commission] *Department* shall be authorized to take possession of, maintain and operate said system, whether private or municipal, as part of its general system, and from the date of such payment all properties along the line of any water main or sewer of the system as acquired shall stand in the same relation, bear the same benefit assessment, and be subject to the same regulations and penalties as though the system so acquired had been constructed and put into operation by the [commission] *Department* under the provisions of this subtitle; provided, however, that no building or premises actually connected in an adequate manner with the said acquired system at the time of its purchase shall be required to pay any connection charge. Whenever there is in existence a privately owned water supply or sewerage system which in the judgment of the [commission] *Department* is unfit, as whole or in part, for incorporation with the [commission's] *Department's* system, the [commission] *Department* shall disregard the existence of said system or unfit part thereof and extend its