

Section 427 thereof, to empower political subdivisions of this State owning or operating water or sewerage systems to impose, levy and collect benefit assessments, rates and other charges to provide funds for maintaining, repairing and operating such water or sewerage systems and to pay interest on and principal of indebtedness incurred to finance such systems; providing the procedure for the establishment and modification of such rates, charges or assessments; generally relating to the establishment, modification, imposition, levy and collection of rates, charges or assessments to finance the construction, acquisition, maintenance, repair and operation of water and sewerage systems; and providing that the authority so granted is additional and supplemental to any other authority now provided by law.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 427A be and it is hereby added to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Water, Ice and Sewerage," to follow immediately after Section 427 thereof, and to read as follows:*

*427A.*

*(a) The term "political subdivision," as used in this Section, means any county, commission, district, municipal corporation or other public body in the State of Maryland, whether existing or operating pursuant to public general or public local law, which owns or operates any water or sewerage system (including, without limitation, the definitions of "water system" and "sewerage system" as set forth in the subtitle "Sanitary Districts" of this article).*

*(b) For the purpose of providing funds for the payment of the interest on and principal of indebtedness incurred to finance its water or sewerage systems, a political subdivision is empowered to establish a proper and reasonable charge payable to the political subdivision, not less than the actual cost thereof, for connection with the water or sewerage system, and to fix an annual assessment, payable to the political subdivision on all properties improved or unimproved, binding upon a street, road, lane, alley or right-of-way in which a water main or sewer has been built. The annual assessment shall be made in the manner provided in Section 657 of this Article 43 in regard to sanitary districts formed under the subtitle "Sanitary Districts" of this Article, and the provisions of Section 657 (except special provisions applicable only in certain political subdivisions) shall govern in all respects the imposition of assessments under this subsection (b).*

*(c) For the purpose of providing funds for maintaining, repairing and operating its water or sewerage system, and for the payment of the interest on and principal of indebtedness incurred to finance the water or sewerage system, a political subdivision is empowered (subject, in the case of a chartered county or municipal corporation, to any provisions of the charter of that political subdivision) to impose rates for water service, a charge for the upkeep of sewers and a sewer service charge, all of these charges being chargeable against all properties having a connection with any water pipe or sewer pipe under its supervision or owned by it. The rates for water service, charge for the upkeep on sewers and charge for sewer service shall be uniform throughout a water or sewerage dis-*