

amended by Chapter 198 of the Acts of 1967; authorizing the County Commissioners of Carroll County to abate weeds, refuse or stagnant water from improved as well as unimproved lots or vacant premises; to provide for the assessment and recovery of the costs of such action to the County, and generally relating to the removal and abatement of certain menaces to public health or safety in Carroll County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 30 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Carroll County (1965 Edition, being Article 7 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Carroll County," subtitle "County Commissioners," as amended by Chapter 198 of the Acts of 1967, be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

30.

(a) The board of county commissioners shall have power, whenever the owner or person in charge of any *improved* or unimproved lot or vacant premises shall fail, after written notice, to remove any menace to the public health or safety arising from the growth of weeds, the accumulation of refuse, the presence of stagnant water or of combustible material, to enter upon the premises by its officers and agents and cause such menace to be abated. Notice of the reasonable costs incurred in abating such menace shall be delivered or mailed to the person in charge of the property and to the person in whose name the property is assessed for taxation. If the cost shall not be paid within sixty days from the giving of such notice the county commissioners may recover the costs by civil action, or may fix a date for hearing to determine whether the costs should be assessed against the property as a special tax. Notice of such hearing shall be posted on the property and sent by registered mail to the last known address of the person in whose name the property is assessed for taxation.

(b) If the name of the owner of the property be unknown, or the owner be a nonresident of the county, notice of the proposed assessment and of the date and place of the hearing shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in some newspaper having general circulation in the county. At the hearing, unless good cause to the contrary be shown, the county commissioners shall have authority to levy the reasonable costs incurred by the [town] county, together with the expense of advertising, as a special tax against the property. The assessment shall be [certified by the clerk for the county commissioners to the county treasurer, to be] added to the annual tax bill against the property to be collected in the same manner as ordinary taxes are collected and subject to the same interest and penalty for nonpayment, as provided by law for the nonpayment of county taxes. Such special tax shall constitute a lien against the property from the date of the assessment until paid.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.

Approved May 5, 1972.