

348A.

The County Commissioners of Charles County are hereby authorized to construct and improve roads and drainage incident to construction or improvement on or along private roads after the approval of a petition of the majority of the property owners whose property abuts on the road to be constructed or improved requesting that the roads be taken into the County Road 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 (1957 Edition, as amended), adopt all necessary rules and conditions for the acceptance, construction and maintenance of roads and/or other authorized improvements by the County. The ordinance shall also provide for THE METHOD OF DETERMINATION OF THE annual benefit assessments to be levied against the abutting properties for the purpose of reimbursing the County for the cost of the 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.

348D.

Before the powers granted by this sub-heading can be exercised there must first be the petition of the property owners as hereinbefore provided requesting improvements, public hearing upon the petition after ten days' notice in a newspaper regularly published in Charles County, approval of the petition by the County Commissioners, and the passage of an appropriate ordinance pursuant to the authority of the section setting forth the improvements being constructed, the property owners affected, and all material terms of the annual benefit assessments levied to pay the cost of the improvements, or any reasonable portion thereof, as determined by the County Commissioners[; provided that no assessment shall exceed ten percent of the assessed value of the property after giving effect to benefits accruing thereto from the improvement for which assessed].

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1975.

Approved April 8, 1975.

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