

bills for collection each year (subject to discount and interest allowances or charges as now provided by law for Queen Anne's County taxes on real property) without interest or discount and upon failure of payment of said benefit assessments, they may be deducted from any surplus in the hands of the Collector of State and County Taxes for Queen Anne's County 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 by the annual benefit assessments may be enforced by bill in equity or by action in personam.

(d) 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 Queen Anne's 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 levied to pay the cost of said improvements, or any reasonable portion thereof, as determined by the County Commissioners; provided that no assessment shall exceed the total assessed value of the property, excluding any improvements thereon, after giving effect to benefits accruing thereto from the improvement for which assessed.

(e) Any interested person feeling aggrieved by the levying of any benefit assessment under this section shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County within thirty days after the final adoption of the ordinance by the County Commissioners, and such court, sitting without a jury, is authorized to hear and determine whether the County Commissioners acted pursuant to the authority granted herein and whether the benefit assessments levied pursuant to the provisions of this sub-title are imposed according to law.

(f) The authority extended to the County Commissioners by this section shall be in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers heretofore vested in them for the improvement of roads in Queen Anne's County.]

SECTION 2. AND BE FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 22-11 be and it is hereby added to the Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County being Article 18 of the Public Local Laws of Maryland (1974 Edition, as amended) to read as follows:

Article 18