

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 25 - County Commissioners
 Section 2B
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1973 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 25 - County Commissioners

2B.

(A) The county commissioners of every county in the State, in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers which may have been or may hereafter be granted them, [shall have the power to] MAY provide for electric lighting along all or any part of the streets, lanes, alleys and public ways of the county, and [to] enter into agreements with any person, partnership or corporation for the installation, maintenance and operation of electric lighting. [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) THE costs of electric lighting provided under the authority of this section shall be paid by ad valorem taxes levied upon the property within the area to be served by the electric lighting. An electric lighting district may be created by the county commissioners upon receipt of a petition signed by [sixty per centum (60%)] 60 PERCENT of the property owners within the proposed district. The petition shall describe the boundaries of the area proposed to be created as the district. Upon receipt of the petition, the county commissioners shall hold a public hearing at which time the residents and taxpayers within the proposed electric lighting district shall be given an opportunity to be heard. This hearing shall be held not less than [fourteen (14)] 14 days nor more than [sixty (60)] 60 days following receipt of the petition and notice of this hearing shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the proposed electric lighting district is to be located. Following this hearing the county commissioners [shall have the power to] MAY establish the electric lighting district and [to] levy on all property which is subject to ordinary county taxes and is located within the district ad valorem taxes at a rate sufficient to pay the cost thereof. All such taxes shall be levied in the same manner, upon the same assessments, for the same period or periods, and as of the same date or dates of finality as are now or may hereafter be prescribed.

(B) IN SOMERSET COUNTY, THE COST OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY BE PAID BY A TAX LEVIED ONLY ON PARCELS OF PROPERTY WITH IMPROVEMENTS. THE TAX SHALL BE LEVIED EQUALLY ON ALL PARCELS OF PROPERTY WITH IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.