

a benefit charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 8-1006 of this subtitle.

(e) Costs to maintain shore erosion control projects are the sole responsibility of the benefited property owner. The Department periodically shall inspect these projects to recommend to the property owner any measures required to maintain the project.

(f) Any county or any municipal corporation may borrow interest-free funds from the Fund for any approved project without the project construction cost limitation stated in this section. The county, or municipal corporation shall repay the funds at a uniform rate over a period not exceeding 25 years as stated by agreement between the State and county or municipal corporation.

(g) The Department shall include in its budget a request for funds necessary to provide and maintain shore erosion protection for State-owned properties.

8-1006.

(a) On receipt of certification from the Department that a shore erosion control project has been satisfactorily completed, the Board of Public Works shall fix and levy a benefit charge on the benefited property. The benefit charge shall be:

(1) Payable in annual installments over a period of 25 years, or any shorter period as directed by the Board; and

(2) Calculated so as to return to the State the net project construction cost resulting from the shore erosion control project.

(b) Annual installments shall be due beginning on the first day of July following levy of the benefit charge by the Board of Public Works, and each July 1 thereafter until the benefit charge is paid totally. If not paid within 90 days of its due date, an installment shall be in default and shall bear interest at the rate of 1 percent a month from the time of default. The Department shall be responsible for collection of annual installments.

(c) A benefit charge assessed under this subtitle shall be a lien on the real property against which it is assessed, and shall be subject to collection in the manner specified for foreclosure of mortgages. Any annual installments in default shall be a first lien on the benefited property, subject only to prior State, county, or municipal real property taxes. The outstanding balance of a benefit charge shall be afforded normal lien priority, except that the Department may agree in writing to