

(IV) Following this hearing the county commissioners may establish the electric lighting district and 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.

(c) In St. Mary's County, an electric lighting district may be created by the County Commissioners upon receipt of a petition signed by a majority of the property owners within the proposed district.

(D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION IS APPLICABLE TO FREDERICK COUNTY AND SHALL PREVAIL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE EXTENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY.

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE PROCESS SET FORTH UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, ~~AN ELECTRIC LIGHTING DISTRICT ALSO MAY BE CREATED AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS~~ THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY CREATE, AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, AN ELECTRIC LIGHTING DISTRICT FOR UNDEVELOPED LAND IN THE COUNTY IF:

(I) A SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR THE LAND HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION OR RECORDED BY THE CLERK OF THE COURT; AND

(II) THE DISTRICT IS CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) (I) PRIOR TO ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRIC LIGHTING DISTRICT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL, AT WHICH TIME THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AREA TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT ARE FULLY DESCRIBED.

(II) A NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOGETHER WITH A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACT SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN AT LEAST 1 NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY ONCE EACH WEEK FOR THE 2 SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE HEARING.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1989.

Approved May 5, 1989.