

~~watershed drainage systems, and it is hereby declared that such drainage shall be considered a public benefit and conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare.~~

~~(b) The State Secretary of Agriculture and the State Soil Conservation Committee shall be notified of any establishment of a drainage association so that coordination and assistance may be provided in accordance with § 8-602 of the Agriculture Article.~~

~~(c) The provisions of this subtitle apply in those counties having a charter form of government under Article XI A of the Constitution, with the term "county council" being substituted in each instance in this subtitle for the term "county commissioners". The provisions of this subtitle apply in those counties having adopted code home rule under Article XI F of the Constitution.~~

~~(d) The provisions of this subtitle do not restrict a chartered or code county from exercising those powers granted in Article 25A, § 5(G) of the Code and Article 25B, § 13 of the Code, which do not conflict with this subtitle.~~

~~(E) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT OWNS LAND THAT IS BENEFITTED OR DAMAGED BY A PUBLIC DRAINAGE ASSOCIATION IS REQUIRED TO PAY ANY FEE, ASSESSMENT, OR TAX LEVIED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE FEE, ASSESSMENT, OR TAX IS LEVIED AGAINST ALL LAND WHICH IS SIMILARLY BENEFITTED OR DAMAGED BY THE PROPOSED WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT WITHIN A PUBLIC DRAINAGE ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

169.

(a) The board of county commissioners or the county council of the several counties of Maryland, and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City, shall have jurisdiction, power, and authority to establish public watershed associations in their respective counties or Baltimore City for the purpose of constructing, operating, maintaining, and carrying out works of improvement for watershed protection, flood prevention, recreation, soil conservation, drainage, and/or the conservation, development, storage, utilization, and disposal of water for all beneficial purposes in watershed or subwatershed areas, and the protection of areas subject to sediment or erosion damages, and to cooperate with local, county, State, and federal agencies; and it is hereby declared that such watershed protection, flood prevention, recreation, soil conservation, drainage and/or the conservation, development, storage, utilization, and disposal of water for all beneficial purposes is a public benefit and conducive to the public health, safety, and welfare.

(b) As used in this subtitle herein the term "county commissioners" shall mean the county commissioners of the county in which a petition for the establishment of a public watershed association is filed and such term shall include and be interchangeable with "County Council", and the "Mayor and City Council" and the term "county" shall include and be interchangeable with Baltimore City.

(c) As used in this subtitle the terms "watershed association" and "association" shall mean public watershed association.