

circumstances which the county finds exists. The charges [herein provided] shall not be limited to the costs to the county for making [such] THE connections. The county [is empowered to] MAY determine the manner in which [such] THE charges shall be payable.

67-20.

For the purpose of providing funds for maintaining, repairing and operating its water supply, sewerage, or drainage systems, and for its operation and other expenses, including property depreciation allowances, and for interest on and the retirements of bonds as specified in this subtitle, AND FOR PAYING LOANS ENTERED UNDER THIS CHAPTER, the county may make the following charges:

A. A water and sewer service charge. The rates for water and sewer service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge which shall be based upon the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last [two (2)] 2 readings. The meter shall be required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the county, and it shall remain the property of the county. [Such] THE rates shall be uniform throughout each [such] system operated by the county but the county may make [such] classifications as it deems advisable within any [such] system based upon quantities of water used. If the county at any time shall not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected to the system, then a flat rate shall be charged on properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each sanitary system and based upon the ready-to-serve charge and the amount of water used. Bills for water and sewer charges shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually as the county may determine to each property served and shall be payable at the office of the County Treasurer or such other place as the county may designate. If any bill remains unpaid after [thirty (30)] 30 days from the date of sending, the county, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, shall turn off the water from the property in question; and the water shall not be turned on again until said bill has been paid, including a penalty of [twenty-five dollars (\$25)] \$25.

B. A charge for the construction and upkeep of drainage water and sewer systems against all properties benefited by such drainage system or having a connection with any water main or sewer under its operation or ownership. The charge for the construction and upkeep of the drainage system and the water and sewer system, if any, shall be made upon such reasonable basis as the county may determine and shall be collected annually in the same manner as are front foot benefit assessments against all property benefited by such drainage system or having a connection within a water main or sewer under the operation or ownership of the county and shall be a lien against such property. Such charges shall be based upon such classifications as the county from time to time may establish and shall be uniform throughout each sanitary system within each such classification; provided, however, that no charge for the upkeep of water and sewer systems shall be made against any property in any year for which such property is currently subject to a front foot benefit assessment as elsewhere in this subtitle provided.