

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 22 - Washington County

[6-701.

For every property abutting on a street or right-of-way under which a water main or sewer is laid, the Commission shall provide a water service pipe or sewer connection, which shall be extended as required from the water main or sewer to the property line of each abutting lot. The service pipe or connection with the sewer shall be constructed by and at the expense of the District. If the Commission so elects, the cost shall be recovered by a reasonable charge by the District for each such connection. The charge shall be uniform within each class of property owners throughout each subdistrict and shall be paid by each property owner at the office of the Commission before the actual connection with any pipe on the property of any such owner is made. The Commission is not required to impose a connection charge. If the Commission had determined not to impose a connection charge initially within a subdistrict for those property owners connecting to water or sewer mains when the system was first made available for use, the uniform rate requirement does not preclude the Commission from imposing a connection charge on property owners connecting with the mains more than 6 months after the installation of the water or sewer system within the subdistrict, nor does it preclude the Commission from imposing a connection charge greater in amount than that imposed on property owners connecting with the system within 6 months after its installation in the subdistrict. The amount of any such connection charge shall be fixed by the Commission and may be revised periodically by the Commission. All of the revenue above actual cost derived from the connection charges shall be credited by the Commission to a special account on its books from which expenditures may be made for repairs, replacements, or any extraordinary expense in the maintenance and operation of the water systems, sewerage systems, or surface drainage systems under its control. When any water main or sewer is declared by the Commission complete and ready for the delivery of water or the reception of sewage, every abutting property owner, after due notice, shall make a connection of all spigots or hydrants, toilets, and waste drains with the water main or sewer within the time prescribed by the Commission. Where those fixtures do not exist or are of a nature which the Commission believes is improper or inadequate, satisfactory equipment shall be installed by the owner on the premises consisting of at least 1 water closet and 1 sink or washbasin, both of which shall be properly connected with the sewer of the District. All septic tank systems, cesspools, sink drains, and privies located on properties connected to sewers provided by the Commission shall be abandoned, closed and left in a sanitary condition so that no odor or nuisance arises from them. If a property owner has not connected to the water or sewer system by the time limit set by the Commission, and the Commission has found that the failure to connect should not be excused for good cause, the Commission may require payment for service that is available even if the property has not been connected. Any violation of the provisions of this section is a misdemeanor punishable under § 6-1004 of this title.]