

for the health, welfare and safety of the residents residing therein, then said Commission shall cause plats of such area to be made under the supervision of its chief engineer showing the proposed water and/or sewerage system, one copy of which plat shall be filed in the office of the Commission, one in the office of the County Commissioners and one in a plat book indexed "Wicomico County Sewer and Water Commission" in the office where the Land Records of Wicomico County are kept, and upon the filing of said plat and the approval thereof by the County Commissioners of said County and the Commission, such sanitary district or districts shown on said plat shall be and the same is hereby designated and constituted for the purpose of this sub-title to be a separate sanitary district and shall be given by the Commission a distinctive name and shall be subject to all of the provisions of this sub-title, and the filing of said plat shall constitute legal notice to the public of such action of the Commission. For the purpose of providing for the organization and preliminary expenses of any newly constituted sanitary district or districts, the County Commissioners shall furnish the Commission a sum not exceeding Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) which shall be repaid out of the first bond issue or income of the particular district.

424. Whenever fifteen (15) property owners residing in any locality in Wicomico County or if there are not fifteen (15) property owners in such locality, then twenty-five per cent (25%) of the owners therein shall petition the Commission to have said locality (the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition) constituted as a new sanitary district, the Commission, if it approves, shall cause to be made a preliminary engineering survey of the project to determine the feasibility and probable cost of providing such area with water and sewer. The Commission shall prepare without cost to the petitioners a preliminary estimate to determine the approximate cost of providing such facilities. The Commission will also submit an estimate of the cost of making surveys and preparing a complete engineering and financial report which shall include the estimated assessed property valuation as fixed for County taxation purposes within the locality involved, which estimated assessed valuation shall be furnished to the Commission by the County Commissioners. Whenever such preliminary estimates are completed the Commission shall give notice by publication in one or more newspapers published within the County once a week for three (3) successive weeks and by handbills posted and circulated in the locality where said district is proposed, which notice shall specify the proposed district together with the time and place of the hearing to be held, at which hearing those present shall be given the probable cost of providing such area with water and sewer as shown by the preliminary survey and the probable cost of the preparation of the complete engineering and financial report incident thereto. If the estimated cost of the proposed facilities, including the cost of the engineering and financial report incident thereto shall exceed fifteen per cent (15%) of the assessed property value as fixed for county taxation purposes in said area or locality or if the project is not feasible from an engineering or financial standpoint, then the Commission may in its discretion deny the petition. If the Commission shall deny the petition, a majority of the land owners in said area or locality may petition the Commission to prepare surveys, plans, engineer's reports and esti-