
DIGEST

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Schroder

HB No. 749

Abstract: Provides for assessments of service charges by road lighting districts in St. Tammany Parish.

Present law provides for the creation of road lighting districts within parishes. Present law further provides for the assessment of service charges for services rendered by these districts.

Proposed law provides methods of assessment for service charges for road lighting districts in St. Tammany Parish.

Proposed law provides for assessment of charges against persons occupying structures, persons owning unoccupied structures, and against persons owning lots or undeveloped property within the district.

Proposed law provides that all assessed charges shall be equal for all customers and the proceeds of such charges shall be used to cover the cost of the following:

- (1) Payment of utility charges incurred in providing road lighting.
- (2) Maintenance and operation of the district facilities and equipment.
- (3) Collection costs of service charges, pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the assessment of charges is subject to voter approval.

Proposed law provides for collection of the service charges or rates. The district shall have the authority to use any necessary and proper means to collect and enforce the collection, including contracting with another political subdivision within St. Tammany Parish or with a utility regulated by the La. Public Service Commission. Proposed law further provides that the district may reimburse the collecting entity up to 5% of the charges actually collected. Such charge will be in addition to the service charges.

Proposed law provides that any charges assessed against owners of undeveloped immovable property within the district shall be added to the tax rolls of the parish and shall be added to the annual ad valorem tax bill for the property. Such charges shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as the parish ad valorem taxes are collected. Proposed law further provides that the sheriff, as tax collector, may use reasonable means to collect the service charge. The

governing authority of the road lighting district shall reimburse the sheriff an amount up to 8% as a collection fee. This fee shall be in addition to the service charges collected.

(Adds R.S. 48:1309.3)