

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

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

New 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.

New 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 new law.

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

New law provides for collection of the service charges. The district may 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. New 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.

New 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. New 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.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 48:1309.3)