CHAPTER 161

SEWERS AND DRAINS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3401. Preexisting drains

All drains previously made at a municipality's expense shall be maintained, managed, controlled and entered the same as if made under this chapter and Title 23, section 3251, subject to the rights that private persons have in those drains. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3402. Construction of drains; expense and control; notice; damages

1. Construction of sewers and drains. The municipal officers of a municipality, or a committee duly chosen by the municipality, may construct public drains or sewers, sewer systems or sewage disposal systems at the municipality's expense, along or across any public way in the municipality and through or upon any lands of persons when they consider it necessary for public convenience or health. Neither the municipal officers nor such a committee may construct any public sewer, sewer system or sewage disposal system in the municipality until that sewer is authorized by vote of the municipal legislative body and an appropriation made for the purpose. When constructed, these sewers, sewer systems or sewage disposal systems are under the control of the municipal officers.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Taking of land. Before the land is taken for the construction of any sewer, notice shall be given and damages assessed and paid for the land as is provided for the location of town ways under Title 23, chapter 304.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3403. Proper maintenance of drains required

After a public drain has been constructed and any person has paid for connecting with it, the municipality shall maintain and keep it in repair to afford sufficient and suitable flow for all drainage entitled to pass through it, but its course may be altered or other sufficient and suitable drains may be substituted in its place. If the municipality does not so maintain and keep it in repair, any person entitled to drainage through it may have an action against the municipality for damages sustained by the municipality's neglect. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3404. Record of proceedings; prosecutions

All proceedings of municipal officers under this chapter must be at their legal meetings. A suitable record shall be made of all permits issued under this chapter, describing the persons and lands to which they apply. The municipal officers have the exclusive direction, on behalf of their municipality, of all prosecutions under this chapter. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3405. Sewer connections

If required by municipal ordinance, the owner of each lot or parcel of land upon which a building has been constructed which abuts upon a street or public way containing a sewer shall connect that building with the sewer and shall cease using any other method for the disposal of waste water. All such connections must comply with the applicable municipal ordinance, which may provide for a reasonable charge for making the connections. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3406. Service charges for sewage or storm water disposal

The municipal officers may establish a schedule of service charges from time to time upon improved real estate connected with a municipal sewer or sewer system or storm water disposal system for the use of the system. These service charges must include reserve fund contributions. For purposes of this section, "storm water disposal system" means storm water and flood control devices, structures, conveyances, facilities or systems, including natural streams and rivers and other water bodies used wholly or partly to convey or control storm water or floodwater. [PL 2013, c. 197, §1 (AMD).]

1. Interest. The municipal officers may charge interest on delinquent accounts at a rate not to exceed the highest lawful rate set by the Treasurer of State for municipal taxes.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Lien. There is a lien on real estate served or benefited by a municipal sewer or sewer system or storm water disposal system to secure the payment of service charges and interest on delinquent accounts established under this chapter. This lien arises and is perfected as services are provided and takes precedence over all other claims on the real estate, excepting only claims for taxes.
[PL 2015, c. 174, §1 (AMD).]

3. Collection. The treasurer of the municipality may collect the service charges and interest on delinquent accounts in the same manner as granted by Title 38, section 1208, to treasurers of sanitary sewer districts with reference to rates established and due under Title 38, section 1202.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 197, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 174, §1 (AMD).

§3406-A. Landlord access to tenant bill payment information

If a tenant is billed for municipal sewer or storm water disposal system service provided to property rented by the tenant and nonpayment for the service may result in a lien against the property, the municipality shall provide to the landlord or the landlord's agent, on request of the landlord or the landlord's agent, the current status of the tenant's sewer or storm water disposal system service account, including any amounts due or overdue. For purposes of this section, "storm water disposal system" has the same meaning as in section 3406. [PL 2013, c. 197, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 306, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 197, §2 (AMD).

§3407. Damage to public drains

Whoever willfully or negligently damages or obstructs a public drain or its outlet, or any street or highway culvert leading into it, is liable to the municipality where it is located in a civil action for double the amount of damages caused by that action, in addition to all other legal penalties for that action. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3408. Crossing railroad right-of-way

Whenever a public drain or sewer is located and about to be constructed across or under the right-of-way of any railroad, the Public Utilities Commission shall determine the place, manner and conditions of the crossing, using current engineering standards and practices, upon petition of either party and after notice and hearing, unless the municipal officers or committee of the municipality that located the drain or sewer agrees with the corporation operating the railroad as to the place, manner and conditions of the crossing. All the work within the limits of the railroad location must be done under the supervision of the officers of the corporation operating the railroad and to the satisfaction of the commission. The municipality in which the drain or sewer is located shall bear the expense of the work. Any additional expense in the construction of that part of the sewer or drain within the limits of the railroad's right-of-way caused by the commission's determination must be borne by the railroad company or by the municipality in which the drain or sewer is located, or apportioned between the company and the municipality as the commission determines. The commission shall make a report of their decision in the same manner as in the case of highways located across railroads and subject to the same right of appeal. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 813 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 813 (AMD).

§3409. Consent for highway opening

Whoever digs up the ground in a highway or street to lay or repair any drain or common sewer without the written consent of the municipal officers commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of $100 may be adjudged for each offense. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

PRIVATE DRAINS

§3421. Private drains connected to public drains

1. Acceptance by municipality. This section does not apply to any municipality until it is accepted by the municipality's legislative body.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Connection before completion of drain. While a public drain or common sewer is under construction and before it is completed and the assessments made, any person may connect their private drain with the public drain or common sewer after obtaining a written permit from the municipal officers or the sewer board in charge of the construction of the public drain or common sewer.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Connection after completion of drain. After the public drain or common sewer is completed and the assessments made, no person may connect their private drain with the public drain or common sewer until that person has paid an assessment and obtained a written permit from the municipal treasurer, by authority of the municipal officers.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Permits recorded. The municipal clerk shall record all permits given to connect with any such drain or sewer before issuing the permit.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3422. Connection of private drains; permits; regulations

1. Connection of private drains; application. Abutters upon the line of a public drain existing in any municipality which has not accepted sections 3421, and 3441 to 3445, and abutters upon the line of a public drain constructed before a municipality accepts those sections, and the owner of contiguous private drains may enter and connect with the public drain on written application to the municipal officers distinctly describing the land to which the application applies and paying a fee determined by the municipal officers.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Permit issued. Upon application, the municipal officers shall give the applicant a written permit to enter and connect with the public drain. This permit is available to the owner of the land described in the application, the owner's heirs and assigns, and shall run with the land without any other or subsequent charge or payment.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Regulations. The municipal officers shall establish any other regulations and conditions for connecting with public drains that they consider expedient.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3423. Connection without permit

If any person connects a private drain with a public drain or enters it by a side drain without a permit, the municipal officers may immediately destroy the connection. That person commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than $200 may be adjudged, to be paid to the municipality where the offense is committed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3424. Adjustment of amounts paid for permits

1. Arbitration of permit fee. Any person who is dissatisfied with the fee required to connect with a public drain may, within 10 days after notice of that amount, make a written request to the municipal officers to have the amount of the fee determined by arbitration. The municipal officers shall nominate 6 persons. The applicant shall select 2 of these persons and a 3rd person who was not nominated by the municipal officers to act as arbitrators. These 3 persons may fix the amount of the fee. The arbitrators shall report their findings to the municipal clerk who shall record them with the proceedings of the municipal officers in establishing the drains.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Payment of fees. By paying the amount set by the arbitrators and the fees of the arbitrators, the applicant shall receive a permit. The municipal officers may determine the fees of the arbitrators, which shall be paid in advance, if required.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Failure to pay for permit. If any person neglects to pay the fee determined by arbitration under subsection 1 and the fees of the arbitrators, within 60 days after notice of that fee, that person shall have no benefit of that determination or of that person's permit.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3425. Pro rata payments for use of private drain

1. Creation of drain or sewer. When a person pays the expenses of laying a common drain or sewer, all persons who join or connect with it shall pay their proportion of that expense.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Repairs. All persons benefited by the drain or sewer shall pay the expense of opening and repairing the drain or sewer.

A. Before a common drain is opened for repairs under this subsection, all interested persons must have 7 days' notice of the repairs, given as the municipal officers direct. If anyone objects and the municipal officers find the objection reasonable, the person objecting is not liable for any expense for the repairs. If the municipal officers find the objection to be unreasonable or if no objection is made within 3 days, the municipal officers may give written permission to proceed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The municipal officers shall determine the amount of the payment under this subsection in each case, subject to appeal to the county commissioners. The municipal officers shall notify each person of the amount to be paid and to whom. If not paid in 10 days, double the amount with cost shall be paid. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3426. Repair of private drain on owner's neglect

If a private drain becomes so obstructed or out of repair as to damage any street or highway, and the persons using the drain, after notice by the road commissioners, unreasonably neglect to repair the drain and the damage to the street or highway, the municipality shall repair the drain and the damage to the street or highway. The municipality may recover the expense of these repairs in a civil action against any one or more of the persons using the drain. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3427. Violation of permit; nuisances

If any person willfully or negligently violates any condition or regulation prescribed in the permit, the municipal officers may immediately disconnect their drain from the public drain and declare the permit forfeited. That person, the person's heirs and assigns may not connect with the public drain again without a new permit. Whoever commits a nuisance by the construction or use of a private drain is liable for that nuisance notwithstanding this chapter. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3428. Malfunctioning domestic waste water disposal units; abatement of nuisance

Malfunctioning waste water disposal units, including septic tanks, cesspools, cisterns, dry wells, drainage beds, drains, sewer lines and pipes and the like, have become a menace to the health and general welfare of the citizens of this State and are declared to be a nuisance. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Abatement procedure. Upon complaint of any person resulting in documentation of a malfunctioning waste water disposal unit or on their own information, the municipal officers shall serve an order to remedy a malfunctioning waste water disposal unit upon the owner of any premises within that municipality that has such a malfunctioning unit.
[PL 2007, c. 568, §1 (AMD).]

2. Content of order. The order must be addressed to the owner of the premises and must contain:

A. The date; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The fact of the malfunctioning waste water disposal unit; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. A notice to remedy the nuisance within 10 days of service of the order; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The signatures of the municipal officers. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

The municipal officers may allow the owner of the premises to request an extension of the 10-day period for no longer than an additional 20 days and may explain how to request an extension in the order. The municipal officers or their agents may approve an extension if it is reasonably necessary for and likely to result in remediation of the nuisance.
[PL 2007, c. 568, §1 (AMD).]

3. Service and return of service. One of the municipal officers or a law enforcement officer shall serve the order personally upon the owner, tenant or occupant in possession. The server shall make and file a return of service indicating the method used and the person served.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Abatement. If the nuisance is not abated within the 10-day period or such period up to but not exceeding the additional 20 days as allowed by the municipal officers under subsection 2, the municipal officers or their agents may enter the premises and have the malfunction adequately remedied. To recover any actual and direct expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees if the municipality is the prevailing party, incurred by the municipality in the abatement of such nuisances, the municipality shall:

A. File a civil action against the owner. The costs, including reasonable attorney fees, to create and prosecute an action to collect expenses following such a civil complaint, shall also be recovered from the owners; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Assess a special tax against the land on which the waste water disposal unit is located for the amount of the expenses. This amount shall be included in the next annual warrant to the tax collector of the municipality for collection in the same manner as other state, county and municipal taxes are collected. Interest as determined by the municipality pursuant to Title 36, section 505, in

the year in which the special tax is assessed, shall accrue on all unpaid balances of any special tax beginning on the 60th day after the day of commitment of the special tax to the collector. The interest shall be added to and become part of the tax. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 568, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 568, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 3

ASSESSMENTS AND FEES

§3441. Applicability of provisions

This subchapter does not apply to any municipality until it is accepted by the municipality's legislative body. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3442. Expense of construction

1. Sewer district defined. As used in this section, sewer district means a quasi-municipal corporation, as defined in section 2604, subsection 3, established to construct and operate sewer systems to assist in the abatement of the pollution of public streams, lakes and inland and ocean waters. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Estimate and assessment of costs; notice. When any municipality or sewer district has constructed and completed a public drain or common sewer, the municipal officers or sewer district trustees shall determine what lots or parcels of land are benefited by the drain or sewer, and shall estimate and assess upon the lots and parcels of land and against the owner of the land or person in possession, or against whom the taxes on the land are assessed, whether the person to whom the assessment is so made is the owner, tenant, lessee or agent and whether the land is occupied or not, the sum not exceeding the benefit they consider just and equitable towards defraying the expenses of constructing and completing the drain or sewer, together with any sewage disposal units and appurtenances that are necessary and in operation after May 31, 1979. The whole of the assessments may not exceed 1/2 the cost of the drain or sewer and sewage disposal units unless 75% or more of the landowners that will be benefited by the expansion petition the municipal officers to construct the drain or sewer and sewage disposal unit and agree to pay a higher assessment that must be identified in the petition. The municipality or sewer district shall maintain and keep the drain or sewer in repair.

A. Farmland, as defined by Title 36, section 1102, subsection 4, is exempt from assessment under this subsection when no benefits are derived from the common sewer or drain. The owner of the farmland must notify the municipal officers or sewer district trustees that farmland property may qualify for this exception. The municipal officers or sewer district trustees shall revise the assessments against qualified farmland to exempt it from assessment. Any revision of assessment provided by this paragraph must be in writing and recorded by the clerk or sewer district trustees.

When the use of the land is changed from farmland, the owner shall within 60 days notify the municipal officers or sewer district trustees in writing of the change. The municipal officers or sewer district trustees shall assess this land in an amount equal to the assessment which would have been due but for this subsection. The municipal officers or sewer district trustees shall notify the owner of the assessment due which the owner shall pay within 60 days of notice or as provided by the municipal officers under their authority in section 3444. [PL 1991, c. 236, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 1991, c. 236, §1 (AMD).]

3. Filing of assessments. The municipal officers or sewer district trustees shall file with the municipal clerk:

A. The location of the drain or sewer and sewage disposal unit, with a profile description of the same; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A statement of the amount assessed upon each lot or parcel of land assessed under this section; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The name of the owner of the lots or parcels of land or persons against whom the assessment is made. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

The municipal clerk and the sewer district trustees shall record the assessment in a book kept for that purpose.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Notice of assessment. Within 10 days after filing occurs under subsection 3, each person so assessed shall have notice of the assessment given to that person or left at that person's usual place of abode in the municipality.

A. If the person has no place of abode in the municipality, then the notice shall be given or left at the abode of the tenant or lessee, if any. If there is no tenant or lessee in the municipality, then the notice shall be given by:

(1) Posting it in some conspicuous place in the vicinity of the lot or parcel of land so assessed at least 30 days before the hearing; or

(2) Publishing it for 3 successive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. The first publication must be at least 30 days before the hearing. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The notice must contain an authentic copy of the assessment, and an order of notice signed by the municipal clerk or the chairman of the sewer district trustees stating the time and place for a hearing upon the subject matter of the assessments. A return made upon a copy of the notice by any constable in the municipality or the production of the paper containing the notice is conclusive evidence that the notice was given. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Hearing; revision of assessments. When the hearing is held, the municipal officers or sewer district trustees may revise, increase or diminish any of these assessments. Any revision, increase or diminution must be in writing and recorded by the municipal clerk and the sewer district trustees.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 236, §1 (AMD).

§3443. Arbitration of assessment

Any person who is dissatisfied with the amount assessed under section 3442 may, within 10 days after hearing under section 3442, subsection 5, make a written request to the municipal clerk to have the assessment upon the lot or parcel of land determined by arbitration. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Arbitrators selected. The municipal officers shall nominate 6 persons who are residents of the municipality. The applicant shall select 2 of these persons, and these 2 persons shall select a 3rd person who is a resident of the municipality and who is not one of the 6 persons nominated by the municipal officers.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Arbitration procedure. The 3 persons selected under subsection 1 shall fix the amount to be paid by the applicant. Within 30 days from the hearing before the municipal officers under section 3442, the arbitrators shall report their findings to the municipal clerk who shall record them. The arbitrators' report is final and binding on all parties.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3444. Collection of assessments

Except for service charges established under section 3406 which shall be collected as provided in that section, all assessments and charges made under this chapter shall be certified by the municipal officers and filed with the tax collector for collection. A facsimile of the signatures of the municipal officers imprinted at their direction upon any certification of an assessment or charge under this chapter has the same validity as their signatures. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Payment over time. The municipal officers of a municipality may adopt an order generally authorizing the assessors and the tax collector to assess and collect those assessments and charges over a period of time not exceeding 10 years, including expenses involved in the municipality's abatement of malfunctioning domestic waste water disposal units under section 3428, subsection 4.

A. The assessors and collector may exercise this authority only when the person assessed has agreed to that method of assessment and collection in writing and notice of that fact has been recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The municipal officers shall annually file with the collector a list of installment payments due the municipality, which must be collected with interest at a rate determined by the municipal officers. If, within 30 days after written notice of the total amount of the assessments and charges,

or annual installment payment and interest, the person assessed fails, neglects or refuses to pay the municipality the expense incurred, the municipal assessors may assess a special tax, equal to the amount of the total unpaid assessment and charges, upon each lot or parcel of land so assessed and buildings upon the lot or parcel of land. This assessment must be included in the next annual warrant to the tax collector for collection and must be collected in the same manner as state, county and municipal taxes are collected.

(1) Interest at the same rate used for delinquent property taxes as established by Title 36, section 505, subsection 4 on the unpaid portion of assessments and charges due the municipality accrues from the 30th day after written notice to the person assessed and must be added to and becomes part of the special tax when committed to the tax collector. [PL 1995, c. 91, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 1995, c. 91, §1 (AMD).]

2. Action to recover unpaid assessments. If assessments under this section are not paid, and the municipality does not proceed to collect the assessments by a sale of the lots or parcels of land upon which the assessments are made, or does not collect or is in any manner delayed or defeated in collecting the assessments by a sale of the real estate so assessed, then the municipality may maintain a civil action in its name against the party so assessed for the amount of the assessment in any court competent to try the action. In this action, the municipality may recover the amount of the assessment with 12% interest on the assessment from the date of the assessment and costs.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 91, §1 (AMD).

§3445. Lien for payment on lot and building; enforcement

When any assessment made under section 3442 is paid by any person against whom the assessment has been made, who is not the owner of the lot or parcel of land, then the person paying the assessment has a lien upon the lot or parcel of land with the buildings on the land for the amount of the assessment paid by that person, and incidental charges. The lien may be enforced in a civil action, and by attachment in the way and manner provided for the enforcement of liens upon buildings and lots under Title 10. The lien shall continue one year after the assessment is paid. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3446. Impact fees and connection fees; affordable housing

The municipal officers may reduce the impact fee or connection fee, as those terms are defined in section 5061, for sewer service to newly constructed affordable housing in accordance with chapter 202-A. [PL 2007, c. 174, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 174, §1 (NEW).

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