

House Bill No. 1637

An act relating to the Okaloosa Gas District; codifying the District's charter, chapter 29334, Laws of Florida, 1953, as amended; reestablishing and recreating the Okaloosa Gas District for purposes of acquiring, constructing, owning, operating, managing, maintaining, extending, improving, and financing one or more gas distribution systems or one or more gas transmission systems or gas transmission and gas distribution systems for its member municipalities of Crestview, Niceville, Valparaiso, and Fort Walton Beach and such other municipalities as may become members of said District; providing such services for the benefit of the public and other users of gas in Okaloosa County and areas in Santa Rosa County and areas in Walton County and other areas of service; providing and prescribing the territorial limits and areas of service of the District; granting powers to the District, including the power of eminent domain; providing the means of exercising such powers; declaring the purposes of the District to constitute a public purpose; defining the powers of the District; providing for a Board of Directors as the governing body of the District to exercise the powers of the District and direct District affairs; providing officers for the District; authorizing the District to issue and sell bonds or revenue certificates payable solely from the revenues of a gas system or systems; authorizing judicial validation of such bonds or certificates; providing for execution and delivery by the District of mortgages, deeds of trust, and other instruments of security for the benefit of the holders of such bonds or revenue certificates; providing for remedies and rights available to the holders of the bonds or revenue certificates; prohibiting distribution of net profits to member municipalities; prohibiting the District from exercising any power of taxation; exempting property and income of the District from taxation; exempting District bonds or revenue certificates and interest thereon from taxation; exempting deeds, mortgages, trust indentures, and other instruments of, by, or to the District from taxation; providing for the use and distribution of the revenues of the gas systems of the District; exempting the District, its activities and functions, and the exercise of its powers from the jurisdiction and control of all state regulatory bodies and agencies; regulating the use of the proceeds from the sale of any such bonds or revenue certificates; providing such bonds or revenue certificates as legal investments for banks, trust companies, fiduciaries, and public agencies and bodies; providing for use of public roads by the District; providing for a covenant by the state not to alter the provisions of the act to the detriment of the holders of bonds or revenue certificates of the District; providing for acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, financing, and refinancing of a gas system or systems by the District; providing for discontinuance of customer service for nonpayment; repealing all prior special acts of the Legislature relating to the Okaloosa County Gas District; providing for protection against impairment of contracts and obligations of the District; providing that the act takes precedence over

any conflicting law to the extent of the conflict; providing severability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Chapters 29334, 1953, 31051, 1955, 63-1697, and 86-468, Laws of Florida, are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as provided in this act.

Section 2. The Okaloosa Gas District is reestablished and re-created as an independent special district and the charter for such District is re-created and reenacted to read:

Section 1. Definitions.—Whenever used in this charter, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

(1) “Gas transmission system” means a supply of natural gas, whether acquired from wells or deposits or from a pipeline or other source of supply and a pipeline or lines, plant and system for the acquisition and the transportation, transmission, and delivery of natural gas, or a plant for the manufacture of gas and the transportation, transmission, and delivery thereof, together with all appurtenances thereto and all property, real, personal, or mixed, used or useful in connection therewith, including franchises, rights-of-way, and easements. A gas transmission system may include facilities for making deliveries of gas to industrial and institutional users and to line tap residential and commercial users as well as to gas distribution systems.

(2) “Gas distribution system” means a plant and system for the distribution and sale of gas and gas services in a municipality and the surrounding territory, including the sale and distribution of gas to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other users, together with all appurtenances thereto and all property, real, personal, or mixed, used, or useful in connection therewith, including franchises, rights-of-way, and easements.

(3) “System” means a gas transmission system or systems and a gas distribution system or systems, or any one or more of such systems.

(4) “District” means the Okaloosa Gas District, created and established by this charter.

(5) “Board of Directors” and “board” means the Board of Directors hereinafter provided for and constituting the governing body of the District.

(6) “Municipality” means incorporated cities, towns, and villages and other municipal corporations of this state.

(7) “Member municipalities” means the municipalities of Crestview, Valparaiso, Niceville, and Fort Walton Beach and such other municipalities as may become members of the District in the manner provided in this charter.

(8) “Bonds” means bonds or revenue certificates or other financial obligations of the District maturing over 3 years from date of issue, issued pursuant to this charter.

Section 2. Creation and establishment of the Okaloosa Gas District.—The Okaloosa Gas District is hereby created and established as an independent special district. The public and governmental purposes of the District are to acquire by purchase or construction, one or both, and to own, finance, operate, maintain, extend, and improve one or more gas systems described as follows:

(1) A gas transmission system or systems to connect each of the member municipalities and such other municipalities in the District's area of service as the District may determine to serve, with an adequate supply of natural gas, at such point or points, as the District may determine.

(2) A gas transmission line or lines for the purpose of supplying gas to any gas system even though located outside of the area of service of the District.

(3) A gas manufacturing plant and system.

(4) Such gas distribution system or systems serving such member municipalities and other municipalities as the District may determine.

(5) Such other facilities and lines as may be necessary or desirable to serve such other customers along the District's supply lines as the District may determine to serve or as the District as a public agency deriving income from a public utility, may be obligated to furnish service under the laws of this state or the United States.

(6) Such gas transmission lines, laterals, gas distribution systems, and facilities to serve such customers in the District's area of service as the District or the District's Board of Directors may determine.

(7) The District may itself own and operate gas distribution systems in the District's area of service, whether in the municipality which is a member of the District or in some other municipality or in unincorporated territory.

Section 3. Area of service.—The territorial limits and area of service of the District shall be Okaloosa County, Florida, and the following described areas in Santa Rosa County, Florida, and Walton County, Florida, to-wit:

(1) In Santa Rosa County, an area 20 miles wide, extending from the eastern boundary of Santa Rosa County, to the western boundary of said county, the center line of which shall be the presently existing transmission line of the District, excepting, however, from the above described area of Santa Rosa County:

(a) The area within the corporate limits of the Town of Milton and the surrounding territory presently served by the gas distribution system of said town;

(b) The area adjacent to State Highway 87 (Brewton Highway) from the intersection of said highway and the transmission line of the District northerly along said highway for a distance of 2 miles;

(c) The area adjacent to the New Chumuckla Highway from the intersection of said highway and State Highway 87 (Brewton Highway) westerly along said New Chumuckla Highway for a distance of 2 miles; and

(d) The area adjacent to said Highway and the transmission line of the District east of Milton, in a westerly direction along said Highway 90 to the corporate limits of the Town of Milton.

(2) In Walton County, the area shall be all of that portion of Walton County lying south of Highway 20 and 10 miles north of Highway 20.

The District may acquire a supply of gas either within or without the District's territorial limits and area of service and may transport and transmit gas from the point of such acquisition to the system or systems of the District. The District may also sell and transport gas for delivery beyond the territorial limits and area of service of the District and acquire, finance, operate, maintain, extend, and improve gas transmission lines, laterals, and facilities beyond the territorial limits and area of service of the District for such purposes and also for the purpose of making direct sales to industrial and institutional users and to line tap commercial and residential users, but the District shall not acquire, construct, own, or operate any gas distribution system in any area other than within the territorial limits and area of service of the District as provided in this section, unless authorized by special act of the Legislature to do so.

Section 4. Declaration of policy.—That the undertakings enumerated in section 2 constitute a proper public purpose for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants of the District and it is hereby found and declared that in the construction, acquisition, improvement, maintenance, operation, extension, and improvement of any or all of said gas systems, the District will be exercising a proper governmental function.

Section 5. Members of the District.—The members of the District shall be the municipalities of Crestview, Niceville, Valparaiso, and Fort Walton Beach. Other municipalities in Okaloosa County may become members of the District by filing with the Secretary of State a resolution, duly adopted by such municipality's governing body, declaring the desire and intention of such municipality to become a member of the District and the municipality's willingness to be bound in all respects by the obligations of the District and the by-laws, resolutions, and acts of the Board of Directors relating to the business and affairs of the District; provided, that the filing of such resolution with the Secretary of State shall not be effectual to make such municipality a member of the District unless and until the Board of Directors of the District shall first have adopted and filed with the Secretary of State a resolution signifying their willingness and desire to accept said municipality as a member of the District. Other municipalities in other counties adjoining Okaloosa County may, if authorized by special act of the Legislature, become members of the District in the same manner.

Section 6. Powers of the District.—The District shall have each and all of the following powers, together with all powers incidental to such powers or necessary to the discharge of such powers:

- (1) To sue and be sued and to defend suits against the District.
- (2) To have and use an official seal for attesting bonds and other official acts and deeds and to alter the same at the District's pleasure.
- (3) To receive, acquire, take, and hold, whether by purchase, gift, or lease, devise, or otherwise, real, personal, and mixed property of any nature whatsoever that the Board of Directors may deem a necessary or convenient part of, or useful in connection with, any system or systems authorized in this charter.
- (4) To make contracts extending over a period not exceeding 40 years for a supply or supplies of natural gas and for the sale and delivery of natural or manufactured gas.
- (5) To contract with any person, firm, or corporation for the entire supervision, operation, and management of any one or more of the systems of the District, including the collection and distribution of the revenues from such system or systems, for such period of time as the board may deem advisable not exceeding 10 years and at such compensation and upon such terms as may be agreed upon and approved by the Board of Directors.
- (6) To borrow money for any authorized purpose and to issue in evidence of the borrowing interest bearing bonds payable solely from the revenues derived from the operation of any one or more of the District's systems.
- (7) To pledge to the payment of the District's bonds any revenues from which said bonds are made payable and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise convey as security for such bonds the system or systems the revenues from which are so pledged.
- (8) To make such covenants in connection with the issuance of bonds, or in order to secure the payment of bonds, as are needful to secure and protect the rights of the holders of such bonds, notwithstanding that such covenants may operate as limitations on the exercise of other powers granted by this charter.
- (9) To establish, by resolution, rates and charges for the District's gas and gas services and to alter such rates and charges.
- (10) To collect and enforce collection of such charges.
- (11) To lease, exchange, sell, convey, and otherwise dispose of the District's real, personal, or mixed property by any form of conveyance or transfer, provided that the District does not sell and convey a gas system or systems to private ownership.
- (12) To appoint and employ officers, agents, and employees, including attorneys, as the District's business may require, and to fix the compensation of such persons.
- (13) To provide for such insurance as the District's Board of Directors may deem advisable.

(14) To exercise all powers of eminent domain now or hereafter conferred on counties in this state.

Section 7. Eminent domain.—The powers of eminent domain granted in this charter and conferred upon Districts incorporated under this charter shall be exercised in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as in the case of counties in this state.

Section 8. The Board of Directors.—The District shall have a Board of Directors, consisting of one member of each member municipality and one member appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County, to represent the interest of the unincorporated areas and the interest of the nonmember cities. The member for each member municipality shall be appointed by the governing body of such member municipality and the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County shall appoint one member. The member shall serve for a term of 4 years and until his or her successor is appointed in like manner and qualified. Appointments to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. The representative of each municipality may, but need not be, the mayor or chief executive officer of such municipality and the member appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County may, but need not be, an elected official, except and provided that no member of the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County shall serve in such capacity. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve without compensation, except that they shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in and about the performance of their duties thereunder and, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, they may be paid a director's fee of not exceeding \$25 for each directors' meeting attended by them, not exceeding one meeting during each calendar month. The appointing authority may remove any member of the Board of Directors within the term for which such member shall have been appointed for malfeasance or misfeasance in office or other just cause after giving to such member a copy of the charges against him or her and an opportunity to be heard in his or her defense.

Section 9. Organization of the board; officers.—After appointment of the members, the members of the Board of Directors of the District shall meet and organize. At such meeting, the members of the board shall choose from their number a president. They shall also choose a secretary and a treasurer, who may but need not be members of the board, and such other officers, agents, and employees as may appear to be desirable. One person may serve as both secretary and treasurer.

Section 10. Authority of the board.—The Board of Directors shall constitute the governing body of the District. The board shall exercise all the powers of the District and the board shall do all things necessary or convenient in acquiring, owning, operating, developing, extending, improving, financing, and refinancing the gas system or systems owned or to be owned by the District, including, but not limited to: the adoption and amendment of by-laws for the management and regulation of the District's affairs and the enterprises in which the District is engaged; to use, with the consent of any of the District's member municipalities, the agent, employees, or facilities or property of such municipalities and to provide for the payment of the

agreed proportion of the costs therefor; and to appoint officers, agents, and employees, including attorneys, and to fix their compensation to provide for the execution of deeds, mortgages, indentures of trust, bonds, gas supply contracts, gas service contracts, supervision contracts, and other instruments and contracts of the District. Action of the directors shall be taken by resolution. Such resolution shall be effective without posting or publication.

Section 11. Bonds of the District.—The bonds of the District shall be authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors of the District and may be issued in one or more series, may bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denominations, be in such form, either coupon or registered, or both, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of payment, at such place or places, either within or without this state, be nonredeemable or subject to such terms of redemption, with or without premium, be subject to being declared or becoming due before the maturity date of such bonds, as such resolution or resolutions may provide. Said bonds may be issued for money, property, labor, or services, either at public or private sale, for such price or prices, including interest costs, as determined by the Board of Directors, the determination of which shall be conclusive. Such authorizing resolution shall provide for the execution and delivery of bonds of the District by officers of the District designated in such resolution. Coupons may be executed with the facsimile signature of any officer designated by the Board of Directors. Any bonds issued by the District may thereafter at any time, whether before, at, or after the maturity of such bonds, and from time to time be refunded by the issuance of refunding bonds, which may be sold by the District at public or private sale, at such price or prices as may be determined by its Board of Directors, or which may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded. The District may pay all expenses, premiums, and commissions which the District's Board of Directors may deem necessary or desirable in connection with any financing done by the District. All bonds issued by the District shall be construed to be negotiable instruments, although payable solely from a specified source, and bona fide holders of such bonds for value shall be entitled to all benefits provided by the negotiable instruments law of this state. Pending the preparation or execution of definitive bonds, interim receipts, or certificates or temporary bonds may be delivered to the purchaser or purchasers of said bonds. Any bonds issued by the District may be purchased by the District out of any funds available for such purposes but such right of purchase may be limited in the authorizing resolution. All bonds so purchased shall be canceled. Bonds of the District and all matters connected with such bonds may be validated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 75, Florida Statutes, and any other applicable provisions of the Florida Statutes.

Section 12. Liability on bonds and other obligations.—Neither the bonds nor any other obligations of the District shall be a debt or obligation of the State of Florida, or a debt or obligation of Okaloosa County, or a debt or obligation of any municipality which is a member of the District. Neither the state nor Okaloosa County nor any such municipality shall be liable in any way whatsoever on such bonds or obligations, nor may the holder of any such bonds or obligations compel the levy of any taxes for the payment of such bonds or obligations. Such bonds shall not be payable out of any funds other

than the revenues of the gas system or systems of the District. Such bonds are not subject to any statutory or other limitations upon indebtedness. Neither the members of the Board of Directors nor any person executing such bonds shall be liable personally on such bonds by reason of the issuance of such bonds. No referendum or election shall be required for the issuance of bonds of the District, except in such cases as such referendum or election may be required by the Constitution of the State of Florida.

Section 13. No power to tax or assess.—The District shall have no power or authority to levy or collect any tax, assessment, or charge other than the rates, fees, and charges for selling gas and furnishing gas services as provided in this charter, and any such tax or assessment levy is hereby specifically prohibited.

Section 14. Mortgage; deed of trust; security agreements.—Any mortgage, deed of trust, or pledge agreement made by the District for the security of any of the District's bonds or to define the rights, remedies, and privileges of the holders of such bonds and the duties of the District to such holders, may contain such agreements, obligations, covenants, and provisions as the Board of Directors may deem advisable respecting the operation and maintenance of the gas system or systems and the collection and application of the revenues subject to such mortgage, deed of trust, or pledge agreement, and respecting the rights and duties of the parties to such instrument or the parties for the benefit of whom such instrument is made; provided, that no such mortgage or deed of trust shall be subject to the sale of the system or systems at foreclosure to private ownership. To further secure the repayment of any money borrowed by the District, the District may enter into a contract or contracts binding the District for the proper application of the money borrowed, for the continued operation and maintenance of any gas system or systems owned or to be acquired or constructed by the District, or any part of parts of such system or systems, for the imposition and collection of reasonable rates for, and the promulgation of reasonable regulations respecting any service furnished from the District's gas system or systems, for the disposition and application of the District's gross revenues or any part of such revenues, and for any other act or series of acts not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter for the protection of the loan and the assurance that the revenues from the District's gas system or systems will be sufficient to operate such system or systems, maintain the same in good repair and in good operating condition, pay all reasonable insurance on such system or systems, pay the principal of and interest on any bonds payable from such revenues, and maintain such reserves and funds as may be deemed appropriate for the protection of the loan and the efficient operation of such system or systems.

Section 15. Mortgage or pledge of property or revenue not in existence; recording notice of mortgage and pledge liens.—Any mortgage or conveyance of property and any pledge of revenues to secure the bonds of the District shall be valid and binding from the time when such mortgage or conveyance is delivered or such pledge made, and the system, properties, revenue, income, and moneys so mortgaged, conveyed, or pledged and thereafter received by such District shall immediately be subject to the lien of such mortgage, conveyance, or pledge without any physical delivery of such

mortgage, conveyance, or pledge or further act, and the lien of any such mortgage, conveyance, or pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the District, irrespective of whether such parties have notice of such claims, from the time when a statement thereof is filed in the county court of Okaloosa County or other office where deeds and mortgages of real property are recorded and in the proper public office in any other county or counties where any part of the system or systems or properties of the District are located. Such notice shall be sufficient if the notice states the date of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds, the date of the bonds, the principal amount of such bonds, the maturity dates of such bonds, and whether the system is one or more gas transmission systems or one or more gas distribution systems or both. The county judge or other officer in charge of the recording office shall file and index such notice in the record of mortgages in their offices.

Section 16. Rights and remedies of bondholders.—In addition to all other rights and all other remedies, any holder or holders of any bond or bonds of the District, including a trustee for a bondholder, shall have the right, subject to any contractual limitation binding upon such bondholder or bondholders or trustee, and subject to the prior or superior rights of others:

(1) To sue on the bonds.

(2) By mandamus or other suit, action or proceeding, at law or in equity, to enforce the bondholder's rights against the District and the Board of Directors, including the right to require the District and such board to fix and collect rates and charges adequate to carry out any agreement as to, or pledge of, the revenues produced by such rates or charges, and to require such District and such board to carry out the other covenants and agreements with such bondholder and to perform the District's and the board's duties under this charter and under any mortgage, indenture of trust, or contract.

(3) By action or suit in equity, to require such District to account as if the District were the trustee of an express trust for such bondholder.

(4) By action or suit in equity, to enjoin any act or things which may be unlawful or a violation of the rights of such bondholder.

(5) By suit, action, or proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction, to obtain in the event of the default by the District in the payment when due of the bondholder's bond or bonds or interest thereon, which default shall have continued for a period in excess of 60 days, or default in the performance of any other covenants or obligations of the District, which default shall have continued for a period of 60 days after notice to cure such default, the appointment of a receiver for the gas system or systems of the District, which receiver may enter and take possession of such system or systems or any part or parts thereof, including all property, land, property rights, easements, franchises, books, records, papers, accounts, and other adjuncts of the gas system or systems of the District, and such receiver may operate and maintain such gas system or systems, fix and collect all rates and charges, and receive all revenues thereafter arising therefrom in the same manner

as the District itself might do, and shall deposit all moneys in a separate account or accounts and apply the same in accordance with the obligations of such District and as the court shall direct.

Section 17. Proceeds from the sale of bonds.—All moneys derived from the sale of any bonds issued by the District shall be used solely for the purpose or purposes for which such bonds are authorized, including any engineering, legal, or other expenses incident to such purposes, and, in the case of bonds issued in whole or in part for the construction of a gas system or systems or any part of such system or systems, interest on such bonds, or, if only a part of the bonds are issued for the purpose of such construction, on the part of such bonds issued for that purpose, prior to and during such construction and for not exceeding 2 years after completion of such construction and, in the case of bonds issued by the District for the purpose of refunding outstanding bonds of such District, any premium which the District may deem necessary to pay in order to redeem or retire the bonds to be refunded. The treasurer or other officer designated by the Board of Directors shall give a receipt for the purchase price to the purchaser of any such bonds, which receipt shall be full acquittal to such purchaser and the purchaser shall not be under any duty to inquire as to the application of the proceeds of such bonds.

Section 18. Disposition of net profits of District.—No distribution of net profits shall be made to the member municipalities.

Section 19. Bonds; legal investments.—Notwithstanding any provision of any other law or laws to the contrary, all bonds, including refunding bonds, issued pursuant to this charter, shall constitute legal investments for savings banks, banks, trust companies, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, and other fiduciaries, and for any board, body, agency, or instrumentality of the State of Florida, or of any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, and shall be and constitute securities which may be deposited by banks of trust companies as security for deposits of state, county, municipal, and other public funds.

Section 20. Tax exemption.—All property and all income of the District shall be exempt from all state, county, municipal and other taxation in the State of Florida. All bonds of such District and the interest on such bonds shall be exempt from all state, county, municipal, and other taxation in the State of Florida. All deeds, mortgages, indentures of trust and other documents executed by or delivered to any such District shall be exempt from all state, county, and municipal and other taxation in the State of Florida.

Section 21. Consent of state agencies.—It shall not be necessary for the District, in proceeding under this charter, to obtain any certificates of convenience or necessity, franchise, license, permit, or other authorization from any bureau, board, commission, or other like instrumentality of the State of Florida or Okaloosa County, in order to construct, acquire, or improve such system or systems or to exercise any of the powers granted in this charter.

Section 22. Regulation by state agencies.—Neither the rates, fees, rentals, or other charges to be established and collected for gas and services of

such system or systems, when constructed, acquired, or improved as provided in this charter, nor bonds which may be issued under this charter, shall be subject to approval, supervision, regulation, or control of any bureau, board, commission, or other like instrumentality of the state.

Section 23. Covenants of the state.—That the State of Florida hereby covenants with the holders of any bonds or other obligations issued pursuant to this charter, and the coupons appertaining to such bonds or obligations, that the state will not in any manner limit or alter the power and obligation vested by this charter in the District to fix, establish, and collect, in the matter provided in this charter, such fees, rentals, or other charges for the facilities and services of such system or systems, and to revise such fees, rentals or other charges from time to time whenever necessary, as will always be sufficient, together with any other pledged funds, to pay the expenses of operation, maintenance, and repair of such system or systems, the principal of and interest on all bonds or other obligations issued pursuant to this charter for such system or systems, and to comply fully with and fulfill the terms of all agreements and covenants made by the District with holders of such bonds or other obligations, until all such bonds or other obligations, together with all interest accrued or to accrue on such bonds, and all costs or expenses in connection with any action or proceedings by or on behalf of the holders of such bonds or other obligations are fully paid and discharged, or adequate provision made for the payment of discharge of such bonds.

Section 24. Use of public roads.—The District is hereby authorized to use the right of way of all public roads, whether state or county, without securing the prior approval of the state or any agency or department of the state or the governing body of any county.

Section 25. Discontinuance of customer services.—If any rates, fees, or charges for the services and facilities furnished by any gas system or systems constructed or reconstructed by the District under the provisions of this charter shall not be paid when due, the District may discontinue and shut off the supply of the services and facilities of the system to the customer so supplied with such services or facilities until such fees, rentals, or other charges, including the interest, penalties, and charges for the shutting off and discontinuance or the restoration of such services or facilities are fully paid, and for such purposes may enter on any lands, waters, and premises of such delinquent customers, within or without the boundaries of the District. Such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges, together with interest, penalties, and charges for the shutting off and discontinuance or the restoration of such services or facilities, and reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses, may be recovered by the District by suit in any court of competent jurisdiction. The District may also enforce payment of such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges by any other lawful means of enforcement.

Section 3. Chapter 29334, Laws of Florida, 1953, chapter 31051, Laws of Florida, 1955, chapter 63-1697, Laws of Florida, and chapter 86-468, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

Section 4. The contracts and obligations heretofore made and incurred and other actions heretofore taken by the Okaloosa Gas District shall not

be impaired or otherwise affected by enactment of this codification of the special acts referred to in sections 1 and 3 or by the repeal of such special acts provided for in such sections.

Section 5. In the event of a conflict of the provisions of this act with the provisions of any other act the provisions of this act shall control to the extent of such conflict.

Section 6. In the event any section or provision of this act is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity of or enforceability of each other section and provision of this act.

Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2000.