

CHAPTER 2015-187

House Bill No. 851

An act relating to Manatee County; amending chapter 63-1598, Laws of Florida; providing that unpaid rentals, rates, or charges for services and facilities of the utility system constitute a lien on any parcel or property affected by such services or facilities; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 14 of chapter 63-1598, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 14. Collection of Charges; Unpaid Fees to Constitute Lien.

(a) In the event that the fees, rentals, or other charges for the services and facilities of said Utility System are shall not be paid when due, the County may discontinue and shut off the supply of the services and facilities of said Utility System and of any other undertaking, utility, or public works owned, operated, and controlled by the County, the person, firm, corporation, or other body, public or private, so supplied with such services or facilities, until such fees, rentals, or other charges, including 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, water, and premises of such person, firm, corporation, or other body, public or private, within or without the boundaries of the County. 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 attorneys' fees and other expenses, may be recovered by the County by suit in a court of competent jurisdiction. The County may also enforce payments of such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges by any other lawful method of enforcement.

(b) In the event that the fees, rentals, rates, or charges for the services and facilities of said Utility System are not paid when due, any unpaid balance thereof and all interest accruing thereon shall be a lien on any parcel or property affected thereby. Such liens may be enforced in the same manner as liens of a county water and sewer district pursuant to s. 153.67, Florida Statutes; however, such a lien may not serve as the sole basis upon which a foreclosure action is initiated. Such liens shall be equal in rank and dignity with the lien of all state, County, district, or municipal tax liens and shall be superior in rank and dignity to all other liens, titles, and claims until paid.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2015.