

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

**ACT 52 (HB 145)**

**2015 Regular Session**

**Burford**

Existing law (R.S. 40:1502) authorizes the governing authority of any fire protection district in DeSoto Parish to establish, assess, and collect a service charge to fund the purchase of fire protection equipment, maintenance, and operation of fire protection facilities and equipment, and obtaining water for fire protection purchases.

New law grants the following additional authorities to DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3.

Authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to establish a service charge for each residential or commercial structure. Specifies that each residential or commercial unit in a structure and each housing unit within a multiple dwelling structure shall be considered a separate structure. Provides that a mobile home shall be considered a structure. Further provides that the amount of such service charges shall be framed so as to cover and used to pay the costs of fire protection and emergency medical transportation and all emergency services incidental thereto.

Authorizes the governing authority to use any reasonable means to collect and enforce the collection of such service charges, including any means authorized by law for the collection of taxes. Authorizes the governing authority to compensate the sheriff and assessor for collecting by mutual agreement.

Authorizes the governing authority to place liens on property for unpaid fire protection service charges. Authorizes the governing authority to provide for interest on the unpaid charges, which shall be paid prior to cancellation of the lien. New law provides that service charge obligations prime all other liens, mortgages, and privileges against the property except for liens previously filed for taxes or local and special assessments. Authorizes the district governing authority to recover the unpaid charges together with all costs of court and attorney fees by ordinary process in the 42nd Judicial District Court.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 40:1502.16)