

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Manatee County; amending chapter
 3 63-1598, Laws of Florida; providing that unpaid
 4 rentals, rates, or charges for services and facilities
 5 of the utility system constitute a lien on any parcel
 6 or property affected by such services or facilities;
 7 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

15 (a) In the event that the fees, rentals, or other charges
 16 for the services and facilities of said Utility System are ~~shall~~
 17 not be paid when due, the County may discontinue and shut off
 18 the supply of the services and facilities of said Utility System
 19 and of any other undertaking, utility, or public works owned,
 20 operated, and controlled by the County, the person, firm,
 21 corporation, or other body, public or private, so supplied with
 22 such services or facilities, until such fees, rentals, or other
 23 charges, including interest, penalties, and charges for the
 24 shutting off and discontinuance or the restoration of such
 25 services or facilities are fully paid, and for such purposes may
 26 enter on any lands, water, and premises of such person, firm,

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27 corporation, or other body, public or private, within or without
28 the boundaries of the County. Such delinquent fees, rentals, or
29 other charges, together with interest, penalties, and charges
30 for the shutting off and discontinuance or the restoration of
31 such services or facilities, and reasonable attorneys' fees and
32 other expenses, may be recovered by the County by suit in a
33 court of competent jurisdiction. The County may also enforce
34 payments of such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges by
35 any other lawful method of enforcement.

36 (b) In the event that the fees, rentals, rates, or charges
37 for the services and facilities of said Utility System are not
38 paid when due, any unpaid balance thereof and all interest
39 accruing thereon shall be a lien on any parcel or property
40 affected thereby. Such liens may be enforced in the same manner
41 as liens of a county water and sewer district pursuant to s.
42 153.67, Florida Statutes; however, such a lien may not serve as
43 the sole basis upon which a foreclosure action is initiated.
44 Such liens shall be equal in rank and dignity with the lien of
45 all state, County, district, or municipal tax liens and shall be
46 superior in rank and dignity to all other liens, titles, and
47 claims until paid.

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