SENATE BILL NO. 646

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GRIESHEIMER.

Pre-filed December 1, 2005, and ordered printed.

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TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 204, RSMo, by adding thereto thirty-four new sections relating to reorganized common sewer districts.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 204, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto thirty-four

- 2 new sections, to be known as sections 204.600, 204.602, 204.604, 204.606,
- $3 \quad 204.608, 204.610, 204.612, 204.614, 204.616, 204.618, 204.620, 204.622, 204.624,$
- 4 204.626, 204.628, 204.630, 204.632, 204.634, 204.636, 204.638, 204.640, 204.650,
- $5 \quad 204.652, 204.654, 204.656, 204.658, 204.660, 204.662, 204.664, 204.666, 204.668, \\$
- 6 204.670, 204.672, and 204.674, to read as follows:

204.600. Any common sewer district organized and existing under

- sections 204.250 to 204.270, and any sewer district organized and
- 3 existing under chapter 249, RSMo, may be converted to a reorganized
- 4 common sewer district under the provisions of sections 204.600 to
- 5 204.640. In addition, a reorganized common sewer district may be
- 6 established as provided in sections 204.600 to 204.640. Once
- 7 established, a reorganized common sewer district shall have all powers
- 8 and authority of and applicable to a common sewer district organized
- 9 and existing under sections 204.250 to 204.270 and applicable to a sewer
- 10 district established under chapter 249, RSMo, which are not
- 11 inconsistent or in conflict with sections 204.600 to 204.640.

204.602. 1. Proceedings for the new formation of a reorganized

- 2 common sewer district under sections 204.600 to 204.640 shall be
- 3 substantially as follows: a petition in duplicate describing the
- 4 proposed boundaries of the reorganized district sought to be formed,
- 5 accompanied by a plat of the proposed district, shall first be filed with

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the appropriate county commission wherein the proposed district is situated. Such petition shall be ruled on by that county commission within thirty days from the date of hearing the petition. If the petition for the reorganized district is rejected by the county commission, no further action on the proposed district shall take place before the 10 county commission or the circuit court. A petition in duplicate 11 describing the proposed boundaries of the reorganized district sought to be formed, accompanied by a plat of the proposed district, shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court of the county wherein the proposed district is situated or with the clerk of the circuit court of the county having the largest acreage proposed to be included in the proposed district, in the event that the proposed district embraces lands in more than one county. Such petition, in addition to such boundary description, shall set forth an estimate of the number of customers of the proposed district, the necessity for the formation of the district, the probable cost of acquiring or constructing sanitary sewer improvements with the district, if appropriate, an approximation of the assessed valuation of taxable property within the district, whether the board of trustees shall be elected or appointed by the county commission, and such other information as may be useful to the court in determining whether or not the petition should be granted and a decree of incorporation entered. Such petition shall be accompanied by a cash deposit of fifty dollars as an advancement of the cost of the proceeding. The petition shall be signed by not less than fifty voters or property owners within the proposed district and shall request the incorporation of the territory therein described into a reorganized common sewer district. The petition shall be verified by at least one of the signers.

2. Upon filing, the petition shall be presented to the circuit court, and such court shall fix a date for a hearing on such petition, as provided in this section. The clerk of the court shall give notice of the petition filing in some newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the proceedings are pending. If the district extends into any other county, such notice also shall be published in some newspaper of general circulation in such other county. The notice shall contain a description of the proposed boundary lines of the district and the general purposes of the petition. The notice shall set forth the date

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fixed for the hearing on the petition, which shall not be less than fifteen nor more than twenty-one days after the date of the last publication of the notice, and shall be on some regular judicial day of the court that the petition is pending. Such notice shall be signed by the clerk of the circuit court and shall be published in three successive issues of a weekly newspaper or in a daily paper once a week for three consecutive weeks.

- 3. The court, for good cause shown, may continue the case or the hearing from time to time until final disposition.
- 4. Exceptions to the formation of a district, or to the boundaries outlined in the petition for incorporation, may be made by any voter or property owner within the proposed districts, provided that such exceptions are filed not less than five days prior to the date set for the hearing on the petition. Such exceptions shall specify the grounds upon which the exceptions are being made. If any such exceptions are filed, the court shall take them into consideration in passing upon the petition and also shall consider the evidence in support of the petition and in support of the exceptions made. Should the court find that the petition should be granted but that changes should be made in the boundary lines, it shall make such changes in the boundary lines as set forth in the petition as the court may deem proper and enter its decree of incorporation, with such boundaries as changed. No public sewer district shall be formed under this chapter, chapter 249, RSMo, section 247.035, RSMo, or any sewer district created and organized under constitutional authority, the boundaries of which shall encroach upon the corporate boundaries of any sewer district then existing. Nor shall any public sewer district extend wastewater collection and treatment services within the boundaries of another without written cooperative agreement between such districts.
- 5. Should the court find that it would not be in the public interest to form such a district, the petition shall be dismissed at the cost of the petitioners. If the court should find in favor of the formation of such district, the court shall enter its decree of incorporation, setting forth the boundaries of the proposed district as determined by the court under the hearing. The decree shall further contain an appointment of five voters from the district to constitute the first board of trustees of the district. The court shall designate such

trustees to staggered terms from one to five years such that one director is appointed or elected each year. The trustees appointed by the court shall serve for the terms designated and until their successors have been appointed or elected as provided in section 204.610. The decree shall further designate the name of the district by which it shall officially be known.

- 6. The decree of incorporation shall not become final and conclusive until it is submitted to the voters residing within the boundaries described in such decree and until it is assented to by a majority of the voters as provided in subsection 9 of this section or by two-thirds of the voters of the district voting on the proposition. The decree shall provide for the submission of the question and shall fix the date of submission. The returns shall be certified by the election authority to the circuit court having jurisdiction in the case, and the court shall enter its order canvassing the returns and declaring the result of such election.
- 7. If a majority of the voters of the district voting on such proposition approve of the proposition, then the court shall, in such order declaring the result of the election, enter a further order declaring the decree of incorporation to be final and conclusive. In the event, however, that the court should find that the question had not been assented to by the majority required in this section, the court shall enter a further order declaring such decree of incorporation to be void. No appeal shall be permitted from any such decree of incorporation nor from any of the aforesaid orders. In the event that the court declares the decree of incorporation to be final, the clerk of the circuit court shall file certified copies of such decree of incorporation and of such final order with the secretary of state of the state of Missouri, with the recorder of deeds of the county or counties in which the district is situated, and with the clerk of the county commission of the county or counties in which the district is situated.
- 8. The costs incurred in the formation of the district shall be taxed to the district, if the district is incorporated; otherwise the costs shall be paid by the petitioners.
- 9. If petitioners seeking formation of a reorganized common sewer district specify in their petition that the district to be organized shall be organized without authority to issue general obligation bonds,

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then the decree relating to the formation of the district shall recite that the district shall not have authority to issue general obligation bonds. The vote required for such a decree of incorporation to become final and conclusive shall be a simple majority of the voters of the district.

10. Once a reorganized sewer district is established, the boundaries of the reorganized sewer district may be extended or enlarged from time to time upon the filing, with the clerk of the circuit court having jurisdiction, of a petition by either:

(1) The board of trustees of the reorganized sewer district and five or more voters or landowners within the territory proposed to be added to the district; or

(2) The board of trustees and a majority of the landowners within the territory that is proposed to be added to the reorganized sewer district.

If the petition is filed by a majority of the voters or landowners within the territory proposed to be added to the reorganized sewer district, the publication of notice shall not be required, provided notice is posted in three public places within such territory at least seven days before the date of the hearing, and provided that there is sworn testimony by at least five landowners in such territory, or a majority of the landowners if the total landowners in the area are fewer than ten. Otherwise the procedures for notice substantially shall follow the procedures in subsection 2 of this section for formation. Territory proposed to be added to the reorganized sewer district may be either contiguous or reasonably close to the boundaries of the existing district. Upon the entry of a final judgment declaring the court's decree of territory proposed to be added to the reorganized sewer district to be final and conclusive, the court shall modify or rearrange the boundary lines of the reorganized sewer district as may be necessary or advisable. The costs incurred in the enlargement or extension of the district shall be taxed to the district, if the district is enlarged or extended. Otherwise, such costs shall be paid by the petitioners. However, no costs shall be taxed to the trustees of the district.

11. Should any landowner who owns real estate that is not within another sewer district organized under this chapter or chapters 249 or

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247, RSMo, or under the Missouri Constitution, but that is contiguous 154 155or reasonably close to the existing boundaries of the reorganized sewer 156 district, desire to have such real estate incorporated in the district, the landowner shall first petition the board of trustees for its approval. If 157such approval is granted, the secretary of the board shall endorse a 158certificate of the board's approval of the petition. The petition so 159endorsed shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in which the 160 reorganized sewer district is incorporated. It then shall be the duty of 161162 the court to amend the boundaries of such district by a decree 163 incorporating the real estate. A certified copy of this amended decree including the real estate in the district then shall be filed in the office 164of the recorder, in the office of the county clerk of the county in which 165the real estate is located, and in the office of the secretary of state. The 166167 costs of this proceeding shall be borne by the petitioning property 168 owner.

12. The board of trustees of any reorganized common sewer district may petition the circuit court of the county containing the majority of the acreage in the district for an amended decree of incorporation to allow that district to engage in the construction, maintenance, and operation of water supply and distribution facilities that serve ten or more separate properties located wholly within the district, are not served by another political subdivision, or are not located within the certificated area of a water corporation as defined in chapter 386, RSMo, or within a public water supply district as defined in chapter 247, RSMo, and the operation and maintenance of all such existing water supply facilities. The petition shall be filed by the board of trustees, and all proceedings shall be in substantially the same manner as in action for initial formation of a reorganized common sewer district, except that no vote of the residents of the district shall be required. All applicable provisions of this chapter shall apply to the construction, operation, and maintenance of water supply facilities in the same manner as they apply to like functions relating to sewer treatment facilities.

204.604. 1. Any existing common sewer district organized and existing under sections 204.250 to 204.270, and any sewer district organized and existing under chapter 249, RSMo, may establish itself as a reorganized common sewer district under sections 204.600 to

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204.640 by petitioning the circuit court of the county in which it was established to approve its reorganization under sections 204.600 to 204.640 if the governing body of the district has by resolution determined that such reorganization is in the best interest of the district. Such petition also shall specify whether the board of trustees shall be appointed by the governing body of the county or elected by 10 the voters of the district. Such petition shall be accompanied by a cash 11 deposit of fifty dollars as an advancement of the costs of the 12 proceeding, and the petition shall be signed by the trustees of the 13 district and shall request the conversion of the district into a 14 15 reorganized common sewer district.

- 2. Upon filing, the petition shall be presented to the circuit court, and such court shall fix a date for a hearing on the petition. The clerk of the court shall give notice of the filing of the petition in some newspaper of general circulation within the existing district or closest to the existing district if there is no newspaper of general circulation within the existing district. If the existing district extends into any other county, such notice also shall be published in some newspaper of general circulation in such other county. The notice shall contain a description of the boundary lines of the existing district and the general purposes of the petition. The notice shall set forth the date fixed for the hearing on the petition, which shall not be less than fifteen nor more than twenty-one days after the date of the last publication of the notice and shall be on some regular judicial day of the court where the petition is pending. Such notice shall be signed by the clerk of the circuit court and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.
- 3. The court, for good cause shown, may continue the case or the hearing from time to time until final disposition.
- 4. Exceptions to the conversion of an existing district to a reorganized common sewer district may be made by any voter or property owner within the proposed district, provided that such exceptions are filed not less than five days prior to the date set for the hearing on the petition. Such exceptions shall specify the grounds upon which the exceptions are being made. If any such exceptions are filed, the court shall take them into consideration and shall consider the evidence in support of the petition and in support of the exceptions

made. Should the court find that it would not be in the public interest 42to form such a district, the petition shall be dismissed at the cost of the petitioners. If the court finds that the conversion of the district to a 44 reorganized common sewer district under sections 204.600 to 204.640 is 45in the best interests of the persons served by the existing district, then 46the court shall order the district's decree of incorporation amended to 47permit reorganization under sections 204.600 to 204.640. The existing 48 board of trustees for such district shall continue to serve the 49 reorganized common sewer district until such time as new trustees 50shall be appointed or elected as provided for in the court's decree. If 5152their original terms of office are not so designated, the court shall designate such trustees to staggered terms from one to five years, so 53that one trustee is appointed or elected each year. The trustees 54appointed by the court shall serve for the terms designated and until 5556their successors are appointed or elected as provided in section 204.610. The decree shall further designate the name of the district by 57which it officially shall be known. 58

204.606. The bonded indebtedness or security interest of any creditor of any common sewer district originally organized and existing under sections 204.250 to 204.270 and any sewer district originally organized and existing under chapter 249, RSMo, that convert to a reorganized common sewer district shall not be impaired or affected by such conversion, and all covenants and obligations of such indebtedness shall remain in full force and effect, payable under the terms and conditions that existed without conversion.

204.608. 1. When a decree or amended decree of incorporation is issued as provided for in sections 204.600 to 204.640, a reorganized common sewer district shall be considered in law and equity a body corporate and politic and political subdivision of this state, known by the name specified in the court's decree, and by that name and style may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with, acquire and hold real estate and personal property necessary for corporate purposes, and adopt a common seal. A reorganized common sewer district also shall have exclusive jurisdiction and authority to provide wastewater collection and treatment services within the boundaries of the district with respect to any wastewater service provider authorized to provide sewer services under the laws of this state.

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2. All courts in this state shall take judicial notice of the existence of any district organized under sections 204.600 to 204.640.

204.610. 1. There shall be five trustees, appointed or elected as provided for in the circuit court decree or amended decree of incorporation for a reorganized common sewer district, who shall reside within the boundaries of the district. Each trustee shall be a voter of the district and shall have resided in said district for twelve months immediately prior to the trustee's election or appointment. A trustee shall be at least twenty-five years of age and shall not be delinquent in the payment of taxes at the time of the trustee's election or appointment. Regardless of whether or not the trustees are elected or appointed, in the event the district extends into any county 10 bordering the county in which the greater portion of the district lies, 11 the presiding commissioner or other chief executive officer of the 12adjoining county shall be an additional member of the board of 13 trustees, or the governing body of such bordering county may appoint 14 15 a citizen from such county to serve as an additional member of the 16 board of trustees. Said additional trustee shall meet the qualifications 17 set forth in this section for a trustee.

2. The trustees shall receive no compensation for their services but may be compensated for reasonable expenses normally incurred in the performance of their duties. The board of trustees may employ and fix the compensation of such staff as may be necessary to discharge the business and purposes of the district, including clerks, attorneys, administrative assistants, and any other necessary personnel. The board of trustees may employ and fix the duties and compensation of an administrator for the district. The administrator shall be the chief executive officer of the district subject to the supervision and direction of the board of trustees. The administrator of the district may, with the approval of the board of trustees, retain consulting engineers for the district under such terms and conditions as may be necessary to discharge the business and purposes of the district.

3. Except as provided in subsection 1 of this section, the term of office of a trustee shall be five years. The remaining trustees shall appoint a person qualified under this section to fill any vacancy on the board. The initial trustees appointed by the circuit court shall serve until the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June or until the first

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Tuesday after the first Monday in April, depending upon the resolution of the trustees. In the event that the trustees are elected, said elections shall be conducted by the appropriate election authority under chapter 115, RSMo. Otherwise, trustees shall be appointed by the county commission in accordance with the qualifications set forth in subsection 1 of this section.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if there is only one candidate for the post of trustee, then no election shall be held, and the candidate shall assume the responsibilities of office at the same time and in the same manner as if elected. If there is no candidate for the post of trustee, then no election shall be held for that post and it shall be considered vacant, to be filled under the provisions of subsection 3 of this section.

district shall have no power to levy or collect any taxes for the payment of any general obligation bond indebtedness incurred by the reorganized common sewer district unless the voters of the reorganized common sewer district authorizes the board to incur indebtedness at an election. All expenses and indebtedness incurred by the reorganized common sewer district may be paid from funds that may be received by the reorganized common sewer district from the sale of bonds authorized by the voters of the reorganized common sewer district.

204.614. 1. Such bonds shall be signed by the president of the board of trustees and attested by the signature of the secretary of the board of trustees with the seal of the district affixed, if the district has a seal. The interest coupons may be executed by affixing the facsimile signature of the secretary of the district.

2. The moneys of the reorganized common sewer district shall be deposited by the treasurer of the reorganized common sewer district in such bank or banks as shall be designated by order of the board of trustees. The secretary of the reorganized common sewer district shall charge the treasurer, and the moneys shall be drawn from the treasury upon checks or warrants issued by the reorganized common sewer district for the purposes for which the bonds were issued.

204.616. 1. The board of trustees of any reorganized common 2 sewer district shall have power to pass all necessary rules and 3 regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of

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4 the board of trustees and the district, and for carrying into effect the 5 objectives for which the reorganized common sewer district is formed.

- 2. The board of trustees of a reorganized common sewer district, subject to compliance with the exercise of lawful authority granted to or rules adopted by the clean water commission under section 644.026, RSMo, may exercise primary authority to adopt, modify, and repeal, and to administer and enforce rules and regulations with respect to:
- 11 (1) The establishment, construction, reconstruction, 12 improvement, repair, operation, and maintenance of its sewer systems 13 and treatment facilities;
- 14 (2) Industrial users discharging into its sewer systems or 15 treatment facilities;
- 16 (3) The establishment, operation, administration, and 17 enforcement of a publicly owned treatment works pretreatment 18 program consistent with state and federal pretreatment standards, 19 including inspection, monitoring, sampling, permitting, and reporting 20 programs and activities.
- The board of trustees may, in addition to any pretreatment standards imposed under this section, require of any user of its treatment facilities such other pretreatment of industrial wastes as it deems necessary to adequately treat such wastes.
 - 3. The rules and regulations adopted by the board of trustees under subsection 2 of this section shall be applicable and enforceable by civil, administrative, or other actions within any territory served by its sewer systems or treatment facilities and against any municipality, subdistrict, district, or industrial user who shall directly or indirectly discharge sewage or permit discharge of sewage into the district's sewer system or treatment facilities.
 - 4. The authority granted to the board by this section is in addition to and not in derogation of any other authority granted under the constitution and laws of Missouri, any federal water pollution control act, or the rules of any agency of federal or state government.
- 5. The term "industrial user", as used in this section, shall mean any nondomestic source of discharge or indirect discharge into the district's wastewater system that is regulated under section 307(b), (c), or (d) of the Clean Water Act, or any source listed in division A, B, D, E, or I of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, or any solid

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waste disposal operation such as, but not limited to, landfills, recycling facilities, solid or hazardous waste handling or disposal facilities, and facilities that store or treat aqueous wastes as generated by facilities not located on site and that dispose of these wastes by discharging them into the district's wastewater system.

204.618. 1. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees of a reorganized common sewer district to make the necessary surveys and to lay out and define the general plan for the construction and acquisition of land, rights-of-way, and necessary sewers and treatment facilities, and of any extensions, expansions, or improvements within the district.

2. The board of trustees of a reorganized common sewer district may enter into agreements with each municipality, subdistrict, private district, or any industrial user that discharges sewage into trunk sewers, streams, or the treatment facilities of the reorganized common sewer district concerning the locations and the manner in which sewage may be discharged into the district system or streams within the district and concerning the permissible content of acid wastes, alkaline wastes, poisonous wastes, oils, grit, or other wastes that might be hazardous or detrimental to the system. If no agreement is obtained with regard to any such matter, the trustees shall refer the dispute to the clean water commission. The determination of the commission shall be binding upon the district, municipality, subdistrict, or private district. Each municipality, subdistrict, or private district shall control the discharge of wastes into its collection sewers to the extent necessary to comply with the agreement or the determination of the clean water commission. The board of trustees of a reorganized common sewer district or the governing body of any municipality, subdistrict, private district, or industrial user discharging sewage into the stream or the system may petition the circuit court that decreed the incorporation of the district for an order enforcing compliance with any provision of such an agreement or determination. That circuit court shall have jurisdiction in all cases or questions arising out of the organization or operations of the district, or from the acts of the board of trustees.

3. The board of trustees may contract with each participating community for the payment of its proportionate share of treatment

33 costs.

4. The board of trustees may contract with public agencies, individuals, private corporations, and political subdivisions inside and outside the reorganized common sewer district to permit them to connect with and use the district's facilities according to such terms, conditions, and rates as the board determines are in the interest of the district and regardless of whether such agencies, individuals, corporations, and subdivisions are in the same natural drainage area or basins as the district. However, if such an area is located within the boundaries of an existing common sewer district or reorganized common sewer district organized and existing under this chapter, a sewer district organized and existing under chapter 249, RSMo, or a public water supply district organized under chapter 247, RSMo, the board of trustees must give written notice to said district before such a contract is entered into, and the district must consent to said contract.

5. The board of trustees may refuse to receive any wastes into the sewage system that do not meet relevant state or federal water pollution, solid waste, or pretreatment standards.

6. The board of trustees shall have all of the powers necessary and convenient to provide for the operation, maintenance, administration, and regulation, including the adoption of rules and regulations, of any individual home sewage or business treatment systems within the jurisdiction of the common sewer district.

7. The board of trustees shall have all of the powers necessary and convenient to provide for the operation and maintenance of its treatment facilities and the administration, regulation, and enforcement of its pretreatment program, including the adoption of rules and regulations to carry out its powers with respect to all municipalities, subdistricts, districts, and industrial users that discharge into the collection system of the district's sewer system or treatment facilities. These powers include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The promulgation of any rule, regulation, or ordinance;
- (2) The issuance, modification, or revocation of any order;
- (3) The issuance, modification, or revocation of any permit;
- 68 (4) Commencing an action through counsel for appropriate legal 69 or equitable relief in the circuit court that decreed the district's

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70 incorporation against any industrial user in violation of the district's 71rules, regulations, and ordinances or any permit or order issued.

- 72 8. The board of trustees may adopt rules and regulations 73 creating procedural remedies for all persons affected by any order or 74permit issued, modified, or revoked by the board including but not limited to the grant of reasonable time periods for such persons to 75 respond and to show cause. 76
- 9. Whenever any reference is made in this section to any action 78 that may be taken by the board of trustees, such reference includes such action by its executive officer under powers and duties delegated 79 to such executive officer by the board of trustees. 80
 - 204.620. 1. The board of trustees may acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation or may lease or rent any real or personal property, and when condemnation is used, shall follow the procedure that is provided by chapter 523, RSMo. All the powers may be exercised both within or without the district as may be necessary to exercise its powers or accomplish its purposes. The board of trustees also shall have the same authority to enter upon private lands to survey land or other property before exercise of the above condemnation powers, as granted under section 388.210, RSMo, to railroad corporations.
- 2. The board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer district, if it is necessary to cross, follow, or traverse public streets, 12roads, alleys, or grounds held or used as public parks or places, shall have the right to do so upon the following conditions: the board of 13 trustees shall file with the county commission or mayor of the 14 municipality having immediate jurisdiction over the street, road, alley, 1516 or public park or place, a map showing the location and extent of the 17proposed occupancy for sewerage purposes and a plan of the proposed facilities, which plan shall be so made and arranged as not to interfere 18 with the ordinary and lawful use of the street, road, alley, public park, 19 or place, except during a reasonable time for the construction of the 20necessary works.
 - 3. The entire expense of the works and restoration of the ground occupied to its former condition, as near as may be, shall be borne by the reorganized common sewer district.
 - 204.622. 1. The board of trustees for the reorganized common sewer district shall let contracts for the construction of sewers and

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sewage treatment plants that will cost more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except in case of repairs or emergencies requiring prompt attention. Notice of the contract bid process shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The board shall select the lowest responsible bidder in no less than twenty days following such publication. The board shall have the power and authority to reject any and all bids and readvertise the work.

2. The board of trustees also shall have the power to enter into agreements with persons or firms to provide professional services to the board, and the board shall adopt policies for procuring the services of such professionals. The provisions of sections 8.285 to 8.291, RSMo, shall be applicable to the services of architects, engineers, and land surveyors unless the board of trustees adopts a formal procedure for the procurement of such services.

204.624. The cost of any reorganized common sewer district to acquire, construct, improve, or extend a sewerage system may be met:

- 3 (1) Through the expenditures by the common sewer district of 4 any funds available for that purpose, including temporary or interim 5 financing funds obtained through any federal or state loan program or 6 from a local lending institution;
- 7 (2) From any other funds that may be obtained under any law of 8 the state or of the United States or from any county or municipality for 9 that purpose;
 - (3) From the proceeds of revenue bonds of the common sewer district, payable solely from the revenues to be derived from the operation of such sewerage system or from any combination of all the methods of providing funds;
 - (4) From the proceeds of general obligation bonds of the reorganized common sewer district, payable solely from voter-approved property taxes as provided for by law;
 - (5) From the proceeds of special obligation bonds of the reorganized common sewer district, payable solely from special fees or other revenues received by the district pledged for the purposes of payment of such bonds; or
 - (6) From the proceeds of user fees, charges, or other imposition for facilities and services provided by the district to its customers and users or the availability of services provided to persons, users, and

customers within the district or who otherwise benefit from services
provided by the district.

204.626. 1. A reorganized common sewer district may issue revenue bonds authorized by authority of a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer district unless, in addition, the decree or amended decree of incorporation shall require any such bonds to be approved by the voters of the district after an election called for that purpose. The resolution shall recite that an estimate of the cost of the proposed acquisition, construction, improvement, extension, or other project has been made and shall set out the estimated cost. It shall set out the amount of the bonds proposed to be issued, their purposes, their dates, denominations, rates of interest, times of payment, both of principal and of interest, places of payment, and all other details in connection with the bonds.

- 2. The bonds may be subject to such provision for redemption prior to maturity, with or without premium, and at such times and upon such conditions as may be provided by the board of trustees of the common sewer district.
- 3. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate in accordance with section 108.170, RSMo, and shall mature over a period not exceeding thirty-five years from the date thereof.
 - 4. The bonds may be payable to bearer, may be registered or coupon bonds, and if payable to bearer may contain such registration privileges as to either principal and interest, or principal only, as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds.
 - 5. The bonds and the coupons to be attached thereto, if any, shall be signed in such manner and by such officers as may be directed by resolution. Bonds signed by an officer who shall hold the office at the time the bonds are signed shall be deemed validly and effectually signed for all purposes, regardless of whether or not any officer shall cease to hold his office prior to the delivery of the bonds and regardless of whether or not any officer shall have held or shall not have held such office on the date ascribed to the bonds.
 - 6. The bonds shall be sold in such manner and upon such terms as the board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer district shall determine, subject to the provisions of section 108.170, RSMo. The resolution may provide that certain bonds authorized shall be junior

or subordinate in any or all respects to other revenue bonds authorized
 concurrently with, prior to, or after such bonds.

204.628. Any user fees or charges, connection fees, or other charges levied by the reorganized common sewer district to fund its general or special operations, maintenance, or payment of bonded 3 indebtedness or other indebtedness shall be due at such time or times as specified by the reorganized common sewer district, and shall, if not 5 paid by the due date, become delinquent and shall bear interest from the date of delinquency until paid. In addition to and consistent with any other provision of applicable law, if such fees or charges or other amounts due become delinquent, there shall be a lien upon the land, 9 and a notice of delinquency shall be filed with the recorder of deeds in 10 the county where the land is situated. The reorganized common sewer 11 district shall file with the recorder of deeds a similar notice of 12satisfaction of debt when the delinquent amounts, plus interest and any 13 recording fees or attorneys' fees, have been paid in full. The lien 14 created may be enforced by foreclosure by power of sale vested in the 15 16 reorganized common district if the reorganized common sewer district 17 adopts written rules for the exercise of power of sale consistent with 18 the provisions of sections 443.290 to 443.325, RSMo, which are recorded 19 in the land records of the office of the recorder of deeds in each county in which the district is located. Otherwise, such lien shall be enforced 20 21by suit in the circuit court having jurisdiction against the property 22subject to the lien for judicial foreclosure and sale by special 23 execution. Such suit may include a request for judgment against the persons responsible for payment of such delinquency as well as the 2425person or persons owning the property to which services were 26 provided, if different, including post-sale deficiency, and as a part of the relief, may include award of the district's reasonable attorney's 27fees, court costs, and other expenses reasonably incurred by the district 28 29 for collection.

204.630. It shall be the mandatory duty of any reorganized common sewer district issuing any general or special revenue bonds under sections 204.600 to 204.640 to:

4 (1) Fix and maintain rates and make and collect charges for the 5 use and services of the system, for the benefit of which revenue bonds 6 were issued, sufficient to pay the cost of maintenance and operation;

7 (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on all revenue bonds 8 issued by the reorganized common sewer district chargeable to the 9 revenues of the system; and

10 (3) Provide funds ample to meet all valid and reasonable 11 requirements of the resolution by which the revenue bonds have been 12 issued.

From time to time, the rates shall be revised to meet fully the requirements of sections 204.600 to 204.640. As long as any bond issued or the interest thereon shall remain outstanding and unpaid, rates and charges sufficient to meet the requirements of this section shall be maintained and collected by the reorganized common sewer district that issued the bonds.

204.632. 1. Whenever any reorganized common sewer district authorizes and issues revenue bonds under sections 204.600 to 204.640, an amount sufficient for the purpose of the net revenues of the sewerage system for the benefit of which the bonds are issued shall, by operation of sections 204.600 to 204.640, be pledged to the payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds as the same shall mature and accrue.

- 2. The term "net revenues" means all income and revenues
 derived from the ownership and operation of the system less the actual
 and necessary expenses of operation and maintenance of the system.
- 3. It shall be the mandatory duty of the treasurer of the reorganized common sewer district to provide for the prompt payment of the principal and interest on any revenue bonds as they mature and accrue.

204.634. 1. The resolution of the board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer district authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds under the authority of sections 204.600 to 204.640 may provide that periodic allocations of the revenues to be derived from the operation of the system for the benefit of which the bonds are issued shall be made into such accounts, separate and apart from any other accounts of the district, as shall be deemed to be advisable to assure the proper operation and maintenance of the system and the prompt payment of the indebtedness chargeable to the revenues of the system. The accounts may include, but shall not be limited to:

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(1) An account to provide funds to operate and maintain the

12 system;

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- 13 (2) An account to provide funds to pay principal and interest on 14 the bonds as they come due;
- (3) An account to provide an adequate reserve for depreciation,
 to be expended for replacements of the system;
- 17 (4) An account for the accumulation of a reserve to assure the 18 prompt payment of the bonds and the interest whenever and to the 19 extent that other funds are not available for that purpose;
- 20 (5) An account to provide funds for contingent expenses in the 21 operation of the system;
 - (6) An account to provide for the accumulation of funds for the construction of extensions and improvements to the system; and
 - (7) Such other accounts as may be desirable in the judgment of the board of trustees.
 - 2. The resolution also may establish such limitations as may be expedient upon the issuance of additional bonds, payable from the revenues of the system, or upon the rights of the holders of such additional bonds. Such resolution may include other agreements with the holders of the bonds or covenants or restrictions necessary or desirable to safeguard the interests of the bondholder and to secure the payment of the bonds and the interest thereon.
- 204.636. For the purpose of refunding, extending, and unifying the whole or any part of any valid outstanding bonded indebtedness 2 payable from the revenues of a sewerage system, any reorganized 3 common sewer district may issue refunding bonds not exceeding in amount the principal of the outstanding indebtedness to be refunded 5 and the accrued interest to the date of the refunding bonds. The board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer district shall provide for the payment of interest which shall not exceed the same rate and the 8 principal of the refunding bonds in the same manner and from the same source as was provided for the payment of interest on and principal of 10 the bonds to be refunded. 11
- 204.638. The board of trustees of the reorganized common sewer 2 district may apply for and accept grants or funds and material or labor 3 from the state and federal government in the construction of a 4 sewerage system, as provided by sections 204.600 to 204.640, and may 5 enter into such agreements as may be required of the state or federal

6 laws, or the rules and regulations of any federal or state department, 7 to which the application is made, and where the assistance is granted.

204.640. It shall be the duty of the mayors of cities, the circuit court, the governing bodies of counties, all political subdivisions, and all assessors, sheriffs, collectors, treasurers, and other officials in the state of Missouri to do and perform all the acts and to render all the services necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 204.600 to 204.640.

204.650. Sections 204.650 to 204.672 shall be known and may be cited as the "Sanitary Sewer Improvement Area Act", and the following words and terms, as used in these sections, mean:

- 4 (1) "Acquire", the acquisition of property or interests in property 5 by purchase, gift, condemnation, or other lawful means and may 6 include the acquisition of existing property and improvements already 7 owned by the district;
- 8 (2) "Assess or assessment", a unit of measure to allocate the cost
 9 of an improvement among property or properties within a sanitary
 10 sewer improvement area based on an equitable method of determining
 11 benefits to any such property resulting from an improvement;
- 12 (3) "Consultant", engineers, architects, planners, attorneys, 13 financial advisors, accountants, investment bankers, and other persons 14 deemed competent to advise and assist the governing body of the 15 district in planning and making improvements;
- 16 (4) "Cost", all costs incurred in connection with an improvement, including but not limited to costs incurred for the preparation of 17 preliminary reports, preparation of plans and specifications, 18 preparation and publication of notices of hearings, resolutions, 19 20ordinances, and other proceedings, fees, and expenses of consultants, interest accrued on borrowed money during the period of construction, 2122underwriting costs, and other costs incurred in connection with the issuance of bonds or notes, establishment of reasonably required 23reserve funds for bonds or notes, the cost of land, materials, labor, and 24other lawful expenses incurred in planning, acquiring, and doing any 25 26 improvement, reasonable construction contingencies, and work done or services performed by the district in the administration and 27supervision of the improvement; 28
 - (5) "District or common sewer district", any public sanitary sewer

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30 district or reorganized common sewer district established and existing 31 under this chapter or chapter 249, RSMo, and any metropolitan sewer 32district organized under the constitution of this state;

- 33 (6) "Improve", to construct, reconstruct, maintain, restore, 34 replace, renew, repair, install, equip, extend, or to otherwise perform any work that will provide a new sanitary sewer facility or enhance, 35 extend, or restore the value or utility of an existing sanitary sewer 36 facility;
- 38 (7) "Improvement", any one or more sanitary sewer facilities or improvements that confer a benefit on property within a definable area 39 and may include or consist of a reimprovement of a prior 40 improvement. Improvements include but are not limited to the 41 following activities: 42
 - (a) To acquire property or interests in property when necessary or desirable for any purpose authorized by sections 204.650 to 204.672;
- 45 (b) To improve sanitary sewers, wastewater treatment plants, lagoons, septic tanks and systems, and any and all other sanitary sewer 46 47and waste water collection and treatments systems of any type, whether located on improved or unimproved public or private property, the 48 49 general object and nature of which will either preserve, maintain, 50 improve, or promote the general public health, safety, and welfare, or the environment, regardless of technology used; 51
 - (8) "Sanitary sewer improvement area", an area of a district with defined limits and boundaries that is created by petition under sections 204.650 to 204.672 and that is benefitted by an improvement and subject to assessments against the real property for the cost of the improvement;
- (9) "User fee", a fee established and imposed by a district to pay 57 an assessment, in periodic installments, for improvements made in a 58 59 sanitary sewer improvement area that benefit the property within such area that is subject to the assessment. 60

204.652. As an alternative to all other methods provided by law or charter, the governing body of any sewer district or reorganized sewer district organized and operated under this chapter or chapter 249, RSMo, or any metropolitan sewer district organized under the constitution of this state, may make, or cause to be made, improvements that confer a benefit upon property within a sanitary

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sewer improvement area under sections 204.650 to 204.672. The governing body of such district may issue temporary notes and revenue bonds under sections 204.650 to 204.672 to pay for all or part of the cost of such improvements. An improvement may be combined with one or 10 more other improvements for the purpose of issuing a single series of 11 revenue bonds to pay all or part of the cost of the sanitary sewer 12improvement area's improvements, but separate funds or accounts shall 13 be established within the records of the district for each improvement 14project as provided in sections 204.650 to 204.672. Such district shall 15make assessments and may impose user fees on the property located 16 within the sanitary sewer improvement area, in addition to any other 17fees or charges imposed by the district to provide services or pay 18 debt. The district shall use the moneys collected from such assessments 19 20 and user fees from a sanitary sewer improvement area to reimburse the 21district for all amounts paid or to be paid by it as principal of and 22interest on its temporary notes and revenue bonds issued for the improvements made in the sanitary sewer improvement area. 23

204.654. 1. To establish a sanitary sewer improvement area, the governing body of the sewer district shall comply with the following procedure: the governing body of the district may create a sanitary sewer improvement area when a proper petition has been signed by the owners of record of four-sevenths of the property within the proposed sanitary sewer improvement area. The petition, in order to become effective, shall be filed with the district. A proper petition for the creation of a sanitary sewer improvement area shall set forth the project name for the proposed improvement, the general nature of the proposed improvement, the estimated cost of such improvement, the boundaries of the proposed sanitary sewer improvement area, the proposed method or methods of financing the project, including the estimated amount of and method for imposing user fees against the real property within the sanitary sewer improvement area to pay for the cost of the improvements and any bonds issued, a notice that the names of the signers may not be withdrawn later than seven days after the petition is filed with the district, and a notice that the final cost of such improvement and the amount of revenue bonds issued shall not exceed the estimated cost of such improvement, as stated in such petition, by more than twenty-five percent.

212. Upon filing a proper petition with the district, the governing 22 body may, by resolution, determine the advisability of the improvement 23and may order that the area be established and that preliminary plans and specifications for the improvement be made. Such resolution shall 2425state and make findings as to the project name for the proposed improvement, the nature of the improvement, the estimated cost of 26 such improvement, the boundaries of the sanitary sewer improvement 27area, the proposed method or methods of imposing assessments and, if 2829 known, proposed estimated user fees within the district. The resolution also shall state that the final cost of such improvement within the 30 sanitary sewer improvement area and the amount of revenue bonds 31 issued shall not, without a new petition, exceed the estimated cost of 32such improvement by more than twenty-five percent. 33

3. The boundaries of the proposed area shall be described by bounds, streets, or other sufficiently specific description.

204.656. The portion of the cost of any improvement to be assessed or imposed against the real property in a sanitary sewer improvement area shall be apportioned against such property in accordance with the benefits accruing by reason of such improvement. Subject to the provisions of the farmland protection act, sections 262.800 to 262.810, RSMo, the cost may be assessed equally by lot or tract against property within the area, or by any other reasonable assessment plan determined by the governing body of the district that results in imposing substantially equal burdens or share of the cost upon property similarly benefited. The governing body of 10 the district may from time to time determine and establish by 11 12 resolution reasonable general classifications and formula for the methods of assessing or determining the benefits. 13

204.658. 1. After the governing body has made the findings specified in sections 204.650 to 204.672 and plans and specifications for the proposed improvements have been prepared, the governing body shall by resolution order assessments to be made against each parcel of real property deemed to be benefited by an improvement based on the revised estimated cost of the improvement or, if available, the final cost, and shall order a proposed assessment roll to be prepared.

2. The plans and specifications for the improvement and the proposed assessment roll shall be filed with the district and shall be

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open for public inspection. Such district shall, at the direction of the governing body, publish notice that the governing body will conduct a hearing to consider the proposed improvement and proposed assessments. Such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general 13 circulation at least once not more than twenty days and not less than 14 ten days before the hearing and shall state the project name for the 15 improvement, the date, time, and place of such hearing, the general 16 nature of the improvement, the revised estimated cost or, if available, 17the final cost of the improvement, the boundaries of the sanitary sewer 18 improvement area to be assessed, and that written or oral objections 19 will be considered at the hearing. Not less than ten days before, the 20district shall mail to the owners of record of the real property in the 2122sanitary sewer improvement area, at their last known post office 23address, a notice of the hearing and a statement of the cost proposed 24to be assessed against the real property so owned and assessed. The 25failure of any owner to receive such notice shall not invalidate the proceedings. 26

hearing to 204.660. 1. At \mathbf{the} consider the proposed improvements and assessments, the governing body shall hear and pass upon all objections to the proposed improvements and proposed assessments, if any, and may amend the proposed improvements, and the plans and specifications, or assessments as to any property, and thereupon by resolution, the governing body shall order that the 6 improvement be made and direct that financing for the cost be obtained 8 as provided in sections 204.650 to 204.672.

- 2. After the improvement has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications, the governing body shall compute the final costs of the improvement and apportion the costs among the property benefited by such improvement in such equitable manner as the governing body shall determine, charging each tract, lot, or parcel of property with its proportionate share of the costs, and by resolution, assess the final cost of the improvement, or the amount of revenue bonds issued or to be issued to pay for the improvement, as special assessments against the property described in the assessment roll.
- 3. After the passage or adoption of the resolution assessing the special assessments, the district shall mail to each property owner 19 within the district a notice that sets forth a description of each owners

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21tract, lot, or parcel of real property to be assessed, the assessment 22 assigned to such property, and a statement that the property owner 23may pay such assessment in full, together with interest accrued from the effective date of such resolution, on or before a specified date 24determined by the effective date of the resolution, or may pay such 25assessment in the form of user fees in periodic installments as provided 26 in subsection 4 of this section. Notice of each assessment and 27imposition of the assessment lien, together with a legal description for 2829 each property assessed within the area, shall be filed with the recorder of deeds upon the effective date of the resolution. However, failure to 30 record any such notice in a timely manner shall not affect the validity 31 of the assessments or liens. The district shall record written notice of 32release of lien whenever an assessment is paid in full. The cost of 33 recording assessment notices and release of liens shall be includable in 3435 the assessment.

4. The special assessments shall be assessed upon the property within the area. Those not paid in full as provided in subsection 3 of this section shall be payable in the form of user fees payable in periodic and substantially equal installments, as determined by the district, for a duration prescribed by the resolution establishing the special assessments. All assessments shall bear interest at such rate as the governing body determines, not to exceed the rate permitted for bonds by section 108.170, RSMo. Interest on the assessment between the effective date of the resolution assessing the special assessments and the date the first installment of a user fee is payable shall be added to the first installment or prorated among all scheduled installments.

5. Assessments not paid in full shall be collected and paid over to the district in the form of user fees in the same manner as other district fees and charges are collected and paid, or by any other reasonable method determined by the district.

204.662. No suit to set aside the assessments made under sections 204.680 to 204.730, or to otherwise question the validity of the 3 proceedings, shall be brought after the expiration of ninety days from the date the notice is mailed to the last known owners of record of the assessments required by subsection 3 of section 204.660.

204.664. 1. To correct omissions, errors, or mistakes in the original assessment that relate to the total cost of an improvement, the

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governing body of the district may, without a notice or hearing, make supplemental or additional assessments on property within a sanitary sewer improvement area, except that such supplemental or additional assessments shall not, without a new petition as provided in sections 204.650 to 204.672, exceed twenty-five percent of the estimated cost of the improvement as set forth in the petition under the provisions of sections 204.650 to 204.672. 9

2. When an assessment is, for any reason whatsoever, set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction as to any property, or in the event the governing body finds that the assessment or any part thereof is excessive or determines on advice of counsel in writing that it is or may be invalid for any reason, the governing body may, upon notice 14and hearing as provided for the original assessment, make a reassessment or a new assessment as to such property.

204.666. An assessment authorized under sections 204.650 to 204.672, once determined and imposed, shall constitute a lien against such property until paid in full and shall not be affected by the existence or enforcement of any other liens or encumbrances, nor shall enforcement of an assessment lien have any effect on the validity or enforcement of any tax lien or lien established by mortgage or deed of trust. An assessment lien becomes delinquent when an assessment is not paid in full as prescribed by sections 204.650 to 204.672, or when one or more periodic installments imposed by the district for an assessment remain unpaid for a period of thirty days or more after 10 notice of delinquency in payment is mailed to the last known owners 11 of the property subject to assessment by regular United States mail and 12by certified mail, return receipt requested, at their last known address, provided by such owners to the district and to the occupant of property that is subject to assessment, if different from that of the owners. In 15the event any such user fee remains unpaid after thirty days of the 16 mailing of any such notice, and in addition to any other remedy the 17district may have by statute or duly enacted regulation for the 18 collection of delinquent amounts owed to the district, the district shall 19 20be entitled to petition the circuit court having jurisdiction to foreclose upon the assessment lien by special execution sale of the property 21subject to the assessment for the unpaid assessment plus reasonable 22attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable costs incurred by the 23

district in collection. In any such suit, the district shall name all parties appearing of record to have or claim an interest in the property subject to the unpaid assessment and shall file a notice of lis pendens in connection with said action. In addition, the district may obtain a judgment against last known owners of the property for any deficiency in payment of the assessment and costs and fees made a part of the court's judgment.

204.668. After an improvement has been authorized under sections 204.650 to 204.672, the governing body of the district may issue temporary notes of the district to pay the costs of such improvement in an amount not to exceed the estimated cost of such improvement. Such temporary notes may be issued in anticipation of issuance of revenue bonds of the district. The district may participate in any governmentally sponsored bond pooling program or other bond program. Bonds may be issued and made payable from special assessments paid in the form of user fees under subsection 4 of section 204.660 and other revenues of the district.

204.670. A separate fund or account shall be created by the district for each improvement project, and each such fund or account shall be identified by a suitable title. The proceeds from the sale of bonds and temporary notes and any other moneys appropriated thereto by the governing body of the district shall be credited to such funds or accounts. Such funds or accounts shall be used solely to pay the costs incurred in making each respective improvement. Upon completion of an improvement, the balance remaining in the fund or account established for such improvement, if any, may be held as contingent 9 10 funds for future improvements or may be credited against the amount of the original assessment of each parcel of property, on a pro rata 11 basis based on the amount of the original assessment, and with respect 12 to property owners that have prepaid their assessments in accordance 13 with sections 204.650 to 204.672, the amount of each such credit shall 14 be refunded to the appropriate property owner. With respect to all 15 other property owners, the amount of each such credit shall be 16 17transferred and credited to the district bond and interest fund to be used solely to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds or 18 temporary notes, and the assessments shall be reduced accordingly by 19 the amount of such credit. 20

204.672. Any public sanitary sewer district or reorganized sewer district organized and operated under this chapter or chapter 249, RSMo, and any metropolitan sewer district organized under the constitution of this state, may enter into a cooperative agreement with a city or county for the purpose of constructing sanitary sewer system improvements under the provisions of the neighborhood improvement district act, sections 67.453 to 67.475, RSMo. Any such cooperative agreement, if approved by the governing bodies of the district and city or county, may include provisions for joint administration of projects for the issuance of temporary notes and general obligation bonds by 10 district, city, or county, separately or jointly, and for the payment of 11 12 such bonds by any source of funds or user fees in addition to funds from special assessments as provided for in sections 67.453 to 67.475, 13RSMo, and general ad valorem taxes, so long as all terms, conditions, 14 and covenants of any applicable bond resolution or ordinance are 1516 complied with and so long as said notes and bonds are issued in compliance with general applicable law. 17

204.674. The provisions of sections 204.600 to 204.672 shall not 2 apply to the provisions in section 204.472.