

55-1804. Assessment on odorized propane; method; payment to council; investment of funds; failure to pay. (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, there shall be an assessment as provided in this section on odorized propane. The council shall set the initial assessment at no greater than 2/10 of one cent per gallon of odorized propane. Thereafter, annual assessments shall be sufficient to cover the costs of plans and programs developed by the council. The assessment shall not be greater than 3/10 of one cent per gallon of odorized propane. In no case may the assessment be raised by more than 1/10 of one cent per gallon of odorized propane annually.

(b) The owner of propane at the time of odorization, or the time of import of odorized propane, shall make the assessment based on the volume of odorized propane sold and placed into commerce. The assessment, when made, shall be listed as a separate line item on the bill labeled "Kansas propane education and research assessment" or "KanPERC." Assessments collected from purchasers of propane are payable to the council on a monthly basis by the 25th of the month following the month of collection. If payment is not made to the council by the due date under this subsection, an interest penalty of 1% of any amount unpaid shall be added for each month or fraction of a month after the due date, until final payment is made. The council may establish an alternative means of collecting the assessment if another means is found to be more efficient and effective. The council may establish a late payment charge and rate of interest to be imposed on any person who fails to remit or pay to the council any amount due under this act.

(c) Pending disbursement pursuant to a program, plan or project, the council shall invest funds collected through assessments, and any other funds received by the council, only in obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in general obligations of any state or political subdivision thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank that is a member of the federal reserve system, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

(d) The price of propane shall be determined by market forces consistent with antitrust laws and no provision of this act shall be interpreted as allowing a pass through to consumers of the assessment determined by the council pursuant to subsection (a).

(e) Any rebate funds received from the national propane education and research council from assessments collected on odorized propane distributed from Kansas shall be the property of the Kansas propane education and research council and the use of such funds shall be determined by the Kansas council for the intended purposes of this act.

(f) Any person who unreasonably fails or refuses to pay any assessments due under this act may be subject to legal action by the council to recover the assessments due, plus interest and costs.

History: L. 2003, ch. 102, § 4; July 1.