

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1947**  
**99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4991H.04C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To repeal section 88.770, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the sale of utilities in fourth class cities.

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

Section A. Section 88.770, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 88.770, to read as follows:

88.770. 1. The board of aldermen may provide for and regulate the lighting of streets and the erection of lamp posts, poles and lights therefor, and may make contracts with any person, association or corporation, either private or municipal, for the lighting of the streets and other public places of the city with gas, electricity or otherwise, except that each initial contract shall be ratified by a majority of the voters of the city voting on the question and any renewal contract or extension shall be subject to voter approval of the majority of the voters voting on the question, pursuant to the provisions of section 88.251. The board of aldermen may erect, maintain and operate gas works, electric light works, or light works of any other kind or name, and to erect lamp posts, electric light poles, or any other apparatus or appliances necessary to light the streets, avenues, alleys or other public places, and to supply private lights for the use of the inhabitants of the city and its suburbs, and may regulate the same, and may prescribe and regulate the rates to be paid by the consumers thereof, and may acquire by purchase, donation or condemnation suitable grounds within or without the city upon which to erect such works and the right-of-way to and from such works, and also the right-of-way for laying gas pipes, electric wires under or above the grounds, and erecting posts and poles and such other apparatus and appliances as may be necessary for the efficient operation of such works. The board of aldermen may, in its discretion, grant the right to any person, persons or corporation, to erect such works and lay the pipe, wires, and erect the posts, poles and other necessary apparatus and appliances

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 therefor, upon such terms as may be prescribed by ordinance. Such rights shall not extend for  
20 a longer time than twenty years, but may be renewed for another period or periods not to exceed  
21 twenty years per period. Every initial grant shall be approved by a majority of the voters of the  
22 municipality voting on the question, and each renewal or extension of such rights shall be subject  
23 to voter approval of the majority of the voters voting on the question, pursuant to the provisions  
24 of section 88.251. Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the board of  
25 aldermen from contracting with any person, persons or corporation for furnishing the city with  
26 gas or electric lights in cities where franchises have already been granted, and where gas or  
27 electric light plants already exist, without a vote of the people, except that the board of aldermen  
28 may sell, convey, encumber, lease, abolish or otherwise dispose of any public utilities owned by  
29 the city including electric light systems, electric distribution systems or transmission lines, or any  
30 part of the electric light systems, electric or other heat systems, electric or other power systems,  
31 electric or other railways, gas plants, telephone systems, telegraph systems, transportation  
32 systems of any kind, waterworks, equipments and all public utilities not herein enumerated and  
33 everything acquired therefor, after first having passed an ordinance setting forth the terms of the  
34 sale, conveyance or encumbrance and when ratified by two-thirds of the voters voting on the  
35 question, **except for the sale of a water or wastewater system, or the sale of a gas plant,**  
36 **which shall be authorized by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the question.**

37 2. The ballots shall be substantially in the following form and shall indicate the property,  
38 or portion thereof, and whether the same is to be sold, leased or encumbered:

39 Shall \_\_\_\_\_ (Indicate the property by stating whether electric distribution system, electric  
40 transmission lines or waterworks, etc.) be \_\_\_\_\_ (Indicate whether sold, leased or  
41 encumbered.)?

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