

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**  
Part 341  
**IRRIGATION DISTRICTS**

**324.34101 Irrigation districts; conditions and limitations for withdrawal of waters from Great Lakes; enforcement of section.**

Sec. 34101.

(1) This part is applicable in counties with a population of 400,000 or less to the use of water from the Great Lakes only, which for the purposes of this part include those portions of those lakes and streams tributary to the Great Lakes where the natural water levels are controlled by and at essentially the same water level as the Great Lake involved.

(2) Water shall not be withdrawn from the Great Lakes if it is being used within the confines of an irrigation district under this part which cannot reasonably be expected to benefit agricultural crops or other agricultural operations for improvement of the food supply and water shall not be withdrawn from the Great Lakes under this part at any place or at any time or in any amount or amounts for a single irrigation district or for the sum of all irrigation districts and water from the Great Lakes shall not be stored or transmitted by or for any irrigation district, authorized to be created by this part, in any manner or by any means or with the aid of any dam or other device that does 1 or more of the following:

(a) Will materially injure other users of the waters of the Great Lakes and connecting channels.

(b) Will significantly affect the levels of the Great Lakes and prejudice the state in its relations with other states bordering on the Great Lakes.

(c) Will adversely affect the state in its development and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources.

(d) Will be detrimental to the health and welfare of the people of the state.

(3) The department shall enforce and implement the conditions and limitations of this section in performing all duties placed upon it by the terms of this part, and for this purpose the department may call upon any officer, board, department, school, university, or other state institution and the officers or employees of any officer, board, department, school, university, or other state institution for assistance considered necessary to implement this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34102 Construction of part.**

Sec. 34102.

This part shall be liberally construed to promote the public welfare by irrigating lands, improving the existing water supply for the lands or providing new means or methods of water supply, or constructing and completing dams, reservoirs, canals, drains, structures, mechanical devices, levees, dikes, barriers and the use of any pumping equipment, pipelines, or other works or a combination of any or all of the same specified in the petition to be utilized for the preservation or operation of any irrigation system constructed, or proposed to be constructed, for the purpose of irrigation.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34103 Previously organized districts; validity, rights, privileges, and obligations; applicability of part.**

Sec. 34103.

This part does not affect the validity of any district organized under the laws of this state prior to July 10, 1967, or its rights in or to property, or any of its rights or privileges of any kind or nature; but the districts are subject to this part so far as practicable. In addition, this part shall not do any of the following:

(a) Affect, impair, or discharge any contract, obligations, lien, or charge for, or upon which, a district was or might become liable or chargeable if former Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of 1967 had not been passed.

(b) Affect the validity of any bonds which had been issued prior to July 10, 1967.

(c) Affect any action pending on July 10, 1967.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34104 Irrigation district as body corporate; powers; seal; condemnation.**

Sec. 34104.

An established irrigation district is a body corporate with power to contract, to sue and be sued, and to hold, manage, and dispose of real and personal property, in addition to any other powers conferred upon it by law, and shall continue in existence until such time as the district is dissolved by operation of law. In addition, each established irrigation district may adopt and use a corporate seal, acquire the right to use of water for irrigation purposes, under plans approved by the department, acquire sites for reservoirs and rights-of-way for drains, canals, and laterals, and exercise the right of condemnation pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 149 of the Public Acts of 1911, being sections 213.21 to 213.25 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or under the applicable provisions of sections 75 to 84 of the drain code of 1956, Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, being sections 280.75 to 280.84 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and shall be considered to be a state agency as that term is used in that act.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34105 District contracts with federal government, state, and others; approval by department; state's public trust.**

Sec. 34105.

As used in this section, "federal government" means the United States and includes any and all agencies of the United States. The irrigation district may contract with the federal government, whereby the federal government will pay the whole or part of the cost of the project or will perform the whole or any part of the work connected with the project, which contract may include any specific terms required by act of congress or federal regulation as a condition for the participation of the federal government. The irrigation district may also contract with the state or any agency of the state or with any person in respect to any matter connected with the construction, operation, or maintenance of any irrigation works or for providing new means of water supply or the improvement of the existing water supply for the lands within the irrigation district. All contracts and agreements executed under this section shall be subject to the approval of the department. Such a contract or agreement or anything in consequence of such a contract or agreement shall not in any manner infringe upon or invade the state's public trust in its waters.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34106 Grant to United States or irrigation district of right to use rights-of-way in county or intercounty**

**drainage districts; approval; rights of private persons.**

Sec. 34106.

Subject to the written assignment, consent, and approval of the drain commissioner administering a county drainage district or the written assignment, consent, and approval of the drainage board of an intercounty drainage district, the county drain commissioner and the drainage board of intercounty drainage districts may grant unto the United States or to any irrigation district the right to use all the easements and rights-of-way conveyed to their respective drainage district or to any county lying wholly or in part in such districts for the construction, use, and maintenance of any county or intercounty drain by the United States or any irrigation district in connection with any irrigation project undertaken by the irrigation district, solely or in cooperation with the United States or any other federal department or agency. Private rights of persons acquired by reason of the establishment and construction of the drain or part of the drain shall not be interfered with or in any way impaired by the use of the drain for irrigation purposes within the scope of this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34107 Dams for irrigation; approval.**

Sec. 34107.

A dam for irrigation purposes shall not be constructed unless the dam is approved in a manner provided by law.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34108 Grants of federal, state, and private aid for irrigation projects.**

Sec. 34108.

An irrigation district may apply for and accept grants or any aid which the United States government or any agency of the United States government, the state or any of its political subdivisions, or any person may authorize to be made or given in aid of an irrigation project.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34109 Irrigation districts; petitions for formulation or improvement; contents; circulation; signatures.**

Sec. 34109.

(1) Whenever a majority of freeholders owning lands in a proposed irrigation district who represent 1/3 or more of the area of lands within the district, or whenever freeholders owning lands who represent more than 1/2 the area of lands within the district, desire to provide for the irrigation of the lands; to improve the existing water supply for the lands or provide a new water supply system for the lands; to purchase, extend, operate, or maintain constructed irrigation works; or to cooperate with the United States for the assumption as principal or guarantor of indebtedness to the United States on account of district lands, they may file in the office of the county drain

commissioner of the county that embraces the largest acreage of the district a petition, hereinafter referred to as the "petition", which shall include all of the following:

- (a) The name of the proposed irrigation district.
- (b) The necessity of the proposed work, describing the necessity.
- (c) The object and purpose of the system proposed to be constructed, together with a general description of the system.

(d) A general description of the lands proposed to be included in the district, accompanying the petition shall be a preliminary engineering report on the feasibility of the project, including a report on the sufficiency of its water supply; the approximate area of irrigable land within the district, including an estimate of the cost of construction.

(e) The names of all freeholders owning lands in the proposed district, when known.

(f) Whether or not the petitioners desire and propose to cooperate with the United States.

(g) A general plea for the organization of the district.

(2) The petitions for the organization of the same district may be circulated and may be filed in more than 1 counterpart and, when filed, shall together be regarded as a single petition having as many signers as there are separate signers on the several petitions filed. All petitions for the organization of the district filed prior to the hearing on the petition shall be considered by the irrigation board the same as if filed with the first petition placed on file, and the signatures contained on those petitions shall be counted in determining whether sufficient persons have signed the petition.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34110 Irrigation districts; affidavit of signers of petitions; evidence.**

Sec. 34110.

The affidavit of 1 or more of the signers of the petition stating that they have examined it and are acquainted with the locality of the district and that the petition is signed by a sufficient number of persons owning lands in the district may be taken by the irrigation board as sufficient evidence of the facts stated in the petition.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34111 Irrigation districts; lands included.**

Sec. 34111.

The lands proposed to be included in any irrigation district need not be contiguous if the benefit of the proposed work in each part will exceed the costs of the proposed work in each part; and lands within any city, village, or township may be included within the limits of any irrigation district if the creation of the irrigation district will benefit the lands within the city, village, or township in any amount equal to or in excess of the amount of assessment for construction against the lands therein.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34112 Irrigation board; creation; membership; chairperson; availability of writings to public; minutes; records and files; member as commissioner of irrigation and public officer; presumption; contested report**

**or action; burden of proof; exception.**

Sec. 34112.

(1) There is created for each irrigation district petitioned for under this part an irrigation board to consist of the drain commissioner of each county involved in the project in which the lands of the proposed irrigation district are located, the director of the department of agriculture, and the chairperson of the directors of each soil conservation district involved in the project in which the lands of the proposed irrigation district are located. The director of the department of agriculture may designate a representative from the department of agriculture and the chairperson of the directors of each soil conservation district may designate a representative from the directors of the soil conservation district to serve in their place as members of the irrigation board. The county drain commissioner of the county in which the largest amount of irrigation district land is contained shall serve as chairperson of the irrigation board.

(2) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the irrigation board in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.231 to 15.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The chairperson of the irrigation board shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the irrigation board, and records and files of the board shall be kept in his or her office.

(3) A member of the irrigation board shall be known as a commissioner of irrigation. A commissioner of an irrigation district is a public officer. The presumption shall be in favor of the regularity and validity of the official act of a commissioner of irrigation. When a report of the commissioners of an irrigation district or action is contested, the burden of proof shall rest upon the contestant. This subsection shall not apply to an action brought with respect to a failure to comply with Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, as prescribed in subsection (2), or a failure to comply with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34113 Commissioners of irrigation; oath of office; annual accounts.**

Sec. 34113.

Before entering upon their duties, commissioners shall take and subscribe the constitutional oath of office. The commissioners shall make a true account of their activities to the department at least once annually.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34114 Control over withdrawals and operations; rules; orders; expenses.**

Sec. 34114.

(1) The department shall maintain superintending control over withdrawals and operations of each irrigation district formed under this part and may promulgate rules to implement this authority.

(2) The department may enforce the limitations and conditions of section 34101 by order prohibiting the further withdrawal of water or by taking other action as is authorized by this part or any other act or law. Each irrigation district shall reimburse the department for any reasonable and necessary expense incurred by the department in maintaining superintending control over that district.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34115 Irrigation board; conducting business at public meeting; notice; calling and notice of meetings; affidavit as proof of mailing; waiver of additional notice; quorum; adjournment; action by board; signing of orders.**

Sec. 34115.

(1) The business that the irrigation board may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the irrigation board held in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

(2) A meeting of the irrigation board may be called by the chairperson or by 2 members of the irrigation board. In addition to the notice prescribed in subsection (1), notice setting forth the time and place of the meeting shall be sent by certified mail to each member. That notice shall be mailed not less than 5 days before the meeting. The affidavit of the chairperson as to this mailing shall be conclusive proof of the mailing.

(3) The notice of a meeting prescribed in subsection (2) is not required if all members are present. A member of the board may waive the additional mailed notice of a meeting, either before or after the meeting.

(4) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise provided in this part, an action shall not be taken by the board except by a majority vote of the board's members. The adjournment of the hearing need not be advertised. Each order issued by the irrigation board shall be signed by the chairperson.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34116 Proceedings upon petition for establishment of irrigation districts; meetings; filing and examination of petition; report; expenses and compensation.**

Sec. 34116.

(1) Upon receipt of a petition for the establishment of an irrigation district, the county drain commissioner shall call the first meeting of the irrigation board. A copy of the petition and duplicates of all maps and other papers filed with the petition shall be filed with the department at least 4 weeks before the date set for the public hearing on the petition. The department shall examine the petition, maps, and other papers and, if it considers it necessary, examine the proposed district, the irrigation works proposed to be constructed, or the location of the irrigation works to be constructed, and prepare a report covering those features of the proposed irrigation project that relate to section 34101 and other matters as the department considers advisable. The department shall submit the report to the irrigation board at the meeting set for the hearing of the petition. All reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the department in making the report shall be paid for by the persons signing the petition.

(2) Any additional compensation for services rendered on behalf of an irrigation district by members of the irrigation board in addition to official duties of the members shall be provided by the respective governmental agencies from which the original compensation for other various duties and services rendered are received.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34117 Irrigation board; first meeting; considerations; naming project and irrigation district; determination of sufficiency of petition and practicability of proposed project; objections; hearing; notice; report of department; final order of determination; order of department; eliminating or adding land in**

**irrigation district; rehearing; legal establishment of irrigation district.**

Sec. 34117.

(1) The irrigation board at its first meeting shall consider the petition for the project, make a tentative determination as to the sufficiency of the petition and the practicability of the proposed irrigation project, and make a tentative determination of the area to be assessed. The irrigation board shall give a name to the project and to the irrigation district.

(2) After the irrigation board has made the determination regarding sufficiency of the petition and practicability of the proposed project, it shall set a time and place to hear objections to the proposed irrigation project and the petition for the project, and to consider the matter of assessing the cost of the irrigation project in the affected lands.

(3) In addition to the public notice prescribed in section 34115(1), additional notice of the hearing shall be published twice in the county in not less than 1 newspaper published in the county and designated by the irrigation board, with the first publication not less than 20 days before the hearing. Notice of the hearing shall also be given to property owners in the assessment district pursuant to Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1962, being sections 211.741 to 211.746 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The irrigation board may provide a form to be substantially followed in giving this notice.

(4) At the hearing, the department shall submit its report on the petition, and any person is entitled to be heard. After the hearing, the irrigation board shall make a determination as to the sufficiency of the petition, the practicability of the irrigation project, and whether the irrigation project should be constructed. If the department determines that the project should be constructed, it shall issue an appropriate final order of determination.

(5) A final order of determination establishing an irrigation district shall not be issued by the irrigation board until the board has been served with an order by the department stating that the department has determined that the proposed irrigation by the proposed irrigation district, as set forth in the petition, supporting papers, and examinations specified in section 34116, is feasible and within the purpose of this part and that the project can be constructed and operated in a manner that would not violate the conditions and limitations of section 34101. If the department by its order determines that the proposed irrigation district cannot be established without violating a condition or limitation of section 34101, its order shall be final and further action for the formation of the proposed irrigation district shall not be taken by the irrigation board. Land in the irrigation district shall not be eliminated from or added to that land tentatively determined to be assessed without a rehearing after notice, as provided in this section. The irrigation district is legally established after entry of the final order of determination.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34118 Plans, specifications, and costs; estimates of proposed irrigation projects.**

Sec. 34118.

The irrigation board shall proceed to secure from a competent engineer plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost of the proposed irrigation project which, when adopted by the board, shall be filed with the chairperson.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34119 Design plans of irrigation works; commissioner's alteration or deviation; approval of department.**

Sec. 34119.

The commissioners shall not be confined to the points of location, commencement, routes, or termini of the drains, reservoirs, dams, canals, ditches, pumps, or other work, or the number, extent, or size of the same, as

proposed by the petitioners, but shall locate, design, lay out, and plan the same in the manner that they determine is best to promote the public welfare and to benefit the lands of the parties interested with the least damage and greatest benefit to all lands affected thereby. All alterations or deviations in the design plans of the irrigation works shall have the final approval of the department.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34120 Acquisition of lands or rights-of-way.**

Sec. 34120.

The irrigation board shall proceed to secure the lands or rights-of-way necessary for the irrigation project. If the lands or rights-of-way cannot be secured by negotiation, then the irrigation board may proceed under section 34104.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34121 Advertisement for bids for construction; acceptance and rejection of bids; readvertisement.**

Sec. 34121.

The irrigation board shall advertise for bids for construction of the improvements requested in the petition. The contract shall be let to the lowest bidder in accordance with the statutory provisions applicable to award of public contracts, and the irrigation board has the right to reject any and all bids and readvertise the bids.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34122 Costs of irrigation district; computation; approval.**

Sec. 34122.

Within 10 days after the letting of contracts, or, in case of an appeal, then immediately after the appeal has been decided, the chairperson of the irrigation board shall make a computation of cost of a project under this part, which shall include all preliminary costs, the cost of construction of the improvement, establishment of the special assessment district, the preparation of the tax roll, notices, advertising, printing, financing, legal, professional, engineering, inspection, condemnation expenses, interest on the bonds for the first year if bonds are to be issued and an amount not to exceed 10% of the gross sum to cover contingent expenses, and all other administrative costs incidental to making of the improvement or establishment of the irrigation special assessment district. The chairperson shall submit the computation of cost to the irrigation board for its approval, and, when the computation of cost is approved by the board or amended and approved by the board, it shall become the final computation of cost for the irrigation district.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA



**324.34123 Assessment roll; description of lands benefited; apportionment of costs; objections.**

Sec. 34123.

The chairperson of the irrigation board, under the direction of the board, shall make out an assessment roll, entering and describing on the assessment roll all the lots, premises, and parcels of land to be assessed, including on the assessment roll all lands benefited by the construction of the irrigation improvement. The assessments shall be based upon benefits to be derived from the proposed irrigation improvement. The irrigation board shall tentatively establish the percentage of the cost of the irrigation improvement which is to be borne by each of the parcels of land assessed on the special assessment roll. After the tentative apportionments and assessment roll is made, the irrigation board shall set a time and place when and where they will meet and hear any objections to the roll.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34124 Notice of hearing; publication; form.**

Sec. 34124.

Notice of hearing shall be given as prescribed in section 34115 and Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1962, being sections 211.741 to 211.746 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and also by publication at least twice in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the county, the first publication to be at least 20 days before the time of the hearing. The irrigation board shall provide a form to be substantially followed in giving of the notice.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34125 Hearing on objections; scope of review; equalization.**

Sec. 34125.

At the hearing, the irrigation board shall hear the proofs and allegations of all parties interested, shall carefully reconsider and review the description of land comprised within the irrigation improvement special assessment district, the several descriptions, and the apportionment of benefits, and shall define and equalize the district as may seem just and equitable.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34126 Special assessment rolls; final orders and confirmation; endorsement; memorandum of installments; conclusiveness.**

Sec. 34126.

After the hearing, the irrigation board shall enter its final order of apportionment and order of confirmation of the roll and shall make an endorsement upon the roll showing the date of confirmation and when the amount to be raised is to be payable. If the amount is to be payable in more than 1 installment, the irrigation board shall enter on the roll a memorandum of the installments and of the years when the installments shall be spread and shall add a certificate in writing of the determination whether the taxes assessed for benefits shall be paid in 1 or more years. The special assessment rolls shall be dated and signed by the irrigation board and filed on or before the last Wednesday in September of each year in the office of the county clerk of the counties involved. When any improvement special assessment roll is confirmed by the irrigation board, it shall be final and conclusive.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34127 Irrigation special assessments liens.**

Sec. 34127.

From the date of confirmation of the special assessment roll, all irrigation special assessments constitute a lien upon the respective lots or parcels assessed and, when assessed, shall be charged against the person to whom assessed until paid.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34128 Tax assessment rolls; contents; permanent installment payments.**

Sec. 34128.

The chairperson of the irrigation board, at the direction of the irrigation board, shall prepare a tax assessment roll in each year for the collection of taxes for the current year and shall certify it to the county clerk on or before the first day of the annual meeting of the county board of commissioners. In each roll, he or she shall add to the amount to be collected interest on all unpaid installments to the date of tax collection. To the roll for the last year, he or she shall add a further amount, if any, as may be necessary, together with outstanding uncollected taxes, to pay all outstanding bonds and interest on the bonds to maturity. If the roll is made payable in more than 1 installment, a permanent assessment roll may be maintained in the office of the county treasurer, subject to the direction of the board of county auditors, in counties having such a board, and of the county board of commissioners in other counties, showing the total cost, the number of installments, and the amount of each annual assessment, together with interest charges on the assessment, which shall be carried in a separate column. If the roll is made payable in more than 1 installment, and the total amount of any assessment is \$10.00 or less, exclusive of interest, then the assessment shall be payable in 1 installment; but if the assessment exceeds \$10.00 and is made payable in more than 1 installment, then no installment, exclusive of interest, shall be less than \$10.00, excepting the final installment, which shall be payable in the amount of the actual balance.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

#### **324.34129 Spread of special assessments on local tax rolls; orders by county board of commissioners.**

Sec. 34129.

The county board of commissioners of the counties involved shall order the spread of all irrigation special assessments on the local tax rolls by the local tax assessing officials pursuant to sections 36 to 38 of the general property tax act, Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, being sections 211.36 to 211.38 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34130 Spread of special assessments on local tax rolls; duties of local assessing officers.**

Sec. 34130.

The supervisor or the village or city assessor shall spread on his or her roll the total amount of all irrigation special assessment taxes determined by the irrigation board and approved by the county board of commissioners to be assessed upon the county, township, city, or village tax roll for the year in which the same was assessed and extending the tax in the same column with the general county, township, city, or village tax. In villages or cities where the municipal taxes are assessed and collected prior to the October meeting of the county board of commissioners, all taxes ordered to be spread against the municipalities shall be spread during the calendar year following the action by the county board of commissioners. The supervisor, assessor, or tax levying official shall spread upon the roll, separately and immediately following the other descriptions, all tracts or parcels of land specified by the irrigation board to be assessed for benefits, and shall place opposite each description, in a column marked "(giving the name or number)..... irrigation special assessment taxes", the amount of taxes apportioned on that tract or parcel of land, as certified to him or her by the county clerk.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34131 Special assessment taxes; interest, charges, collections, disbursement; defense of collector; limitation on actions; payments under protest; liens.**

Sec. 34131.

All irrigation special assessment taxes assessed under this part shall be subject to the same interest and charges, and shall be collected in the same manner, as state and other general taxes are collected, and collecting officers are vested with the same power and authority in the collection of the taxes as are or may be conferred by law for collecting general taxes. Irrigation special assessment taxes, when collected, shall be returned to the county treasurer to be disbursed by him or her. If a suit is brought against the collector arising out of the collection of an irrigation special assessment tax, the county shall defend the collector in the same manner that he or she has the right to be defended in the collection of general taxes. A suit shall not be instituted to recover any special assessment tax or money paid or property sold therefor, or for damages on account thereof, unless brought within 30 days from the time of payment of the money to, or sale of the property by, the collecting officer. If the tax is paid under protest, the reasons for the protest shall be specified, and the same procedure observed as is required by the general tax law. All taxes levied under this part, with all lawful costs, interest, and charges, shall be and remain a perpetual lien upon the lands upon which they are assessed, and a personal claim against the owner of the lands until they are paid. If the taxes levied by the special assessment irrigation district are not collected by the treasurer of a participating municipality, they shall be returned by him or her, together with the lands upon which they were levied, to the county treasurer in the same return, at the same time, and in the same manner, in every respect, naming in each case the particular irrigation district, as lands are returned for state, county, and township taxes, and the taxes shall follow the lands, the same as all other taxes, and all the general provisions of law for enforcing the payment of township, county, and state taxes shall apply to irrigation special assessment taxes and to the lands returned delinquent for those taxes, in the same manner and with the same effect.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995  
**Popular Name:** Act 451  
**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34132 Additional pro rata assessments; limitations.**

Sec. 34132.

If the assessments in any special assessment roll prove insufficient for any reason, including the noncollection of the assessments, to pay for the improvement for which they were made or to pay the principal and interest on the bonds issued in anticipation of the collection of the assessments, then the irrigation board shall make additional pro rata assessments to supply the deficiency, but the total amount assessed against any parcel of land shall not exceed the value of the benefits received from the improvement.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995  
**Popular Name:** Act 451  
**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34133 Invalid assessments; validation procedure; payments applied to reassessments.**

Sec. 34133.

If, in the opinion of the irrigation board, a special assessment is invalid by reason of irregularities or informalities in the proceedings, or if any court of competent jurisdiction adjudges an assessment illegal, the irrigation board, whether the improvement has been made or not and whether any part of the assessment has been paid or not, may proceed from the last step at which the proceedings were legal and cause a new assessment to be made for the same purpose for which the former assessment was made. All proceedings on the reassessment and for the collection of the reassessment shall be conducted in the same manner as provided for the original assessment. Whenever an assessment or any part of an assessment levied upon any premises has been set aside in such a manner, if the assessment or part of an assessment has been paid and not refunded, the payment made shall be applied upon the reassessment.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995  
**Popular Name:** Act 451  
**Popular Name:** NREPA

### **324.34134 Irrigation orders to pay charges and to pay easements or rights-of-way; installments; drawing orders on first and succeeding years' assessments; limitations; certification by treasurer.**

Sec. 34134.

The irrigation board of each special assessment district may issue irrigation orders for the payment of all charges reflected by the computation of costs upon the irrigation fund of each particular district. Irrigation taxes shall not be assessed for benefits received that are to be paid by irrigation orders in excess of 10 annual installments. All irrigation orders for the payment for easements or rights-of-way shall be paid out of the first year's taxes, and the balance of the first year's taxes shall be applied toward payment of the irrigation construction contracts. For the balance due upon such contracts, the irrigation board shall draw irrigation orders payable out of each succeeding year's assessment. An irrigation board shall not draw orders payable in any 1 year for a larger amount than 90% of that year's assessment. Irrigation orders shall be ordered to be paid by the irrigation board only after a certification by the treasurer of the irrigation district that there are sufficient funds in the irrigation district fund to pay the order. The county treasurers of the counties involved in irrigation districts shall keep a record of all receipts and

disbursements of all irrigation districts in their respective counties.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34135 Interest on bonds; board of commissioners; resolution pledging full faith and credit of county to pay.**

Sec. 34135.

The county board of commissioners of the county involved by a resolution adopted by a 2/3 vote of its members may pledge the full faith and credit of the county for the prompt payment of the interest on the bonds or evidences of indebtedness issued by the respective irrigation districts under this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34136 Operating and maintaining property of irrigation district; fixing and collecting water charges; approval of charges; charges for water services as lien on affected lands; certification of delinquent charges; entering charges on tax roll; enforcement; exaction of other charges; future expenses; assessment; notice of hearing.**

Sec. 34136.

(1) The irrigation board shall operate and maintain the property of the irrigation district.

(2) The irrigation board may fix and collect water charges to cover the cost of the operation and maintenance of physical structures and administrative expenses of the district in connection with the transportation, impoundment, and utilization of water for irrigation purposes. The charges shall be approved by the majority vote of the irrigation board and shall be made to each user of water.

(3) Charges for water services furnished to a user or to a landowner shall be a lien on the affected lands from the date the charges are due. Charges delinquent for 6 months or more shall be certified annually to the proper tax assessing officer or agency, who shall enter the charges upon the next tax roll against the premises to which the services have been rendered, and the charges shall be collected and the lien shall be enforced in the same manner as provided for the collection of taxes assessed upon the tax roll and the enforcement of the lien. The time and manner of certification and other procedures regarding the collection of the charges and the enforcement of the lien shall be prescribed by the irrigation board in cooperation with the governing bodies of the public corporations in which the lands are located. Instead of or in addition to levying water charges for the operation and maintenance of the properties of the irrigation district, the irrigation board, under the same conditions and for the same purpose, may exact connection, readiness to serve, availability, or service charges to be paid by the users or owners of land utilizing irrigation water for irrigation purposes.

(4) Future necessary expenses incurred in the administration and operation of the district and its properties may be assessed not less than once every 3 years on the basis of benefits derived after notice of the hearing on the maintenance assessment roll is given in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1962, being sections 211.741 to 211.746 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34137 Attack on orders; proceedings by writ of superintending control; legality of irrigation special assessment district and project; assessments; actions.**

Sec. 34137.

(1) Except as prescribed in subsection (2), the final order of determination, the order of apportionment of benefits, or the order confirming the special assessment roll shall not be subject to attack in a court except by proceedings by writ of superintending control brought within 20 days after the filing of the order in the office of the chairperson of the irrigation board issuing the order. If a proceeding is not brought within the time prescribed, the irrigation special assessment district and project shall be considered to have been legally established, and the legality of the irrigation special assessment district and project and the assessments for the district and project shall not be questioned in an action at law or in equity.

(2) This section shall not prohibit the bringing of an action pursuant to the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34138 Suspension of water delivery; delinquent irrigation taxes; right-of-way for laterals; condemnation; payment.**

Sec. 34138.

The irrigation board may, by the adoption of an appropriate order, provide for the suspension of water delivery to any land in the district upon which the irrigation taxes levied and assessed remain due and unpaid for 2 years. The irrigation board shall make all arrangements for right-of-way for laterals from the main drain or canal to each tract of land subject to assessment, and when necessary the board shall condemn to procure right-of-way for laterals and make such rules in regard to the payment for the right-of-way as it considers just and equitable.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34139 Irrigation boards; powers and duties.**

Sec. 34139.

The irrigation board shall manage and conduct the business affairs of the district, make and execute all necessary contracts, employ agents, officers, and employees as may be required and prescribe their duties, establish equitable orders and rules for the distribution and use of water among owners of such lands, and generally perform all acts as are necessary to fully implement this part. The orders and rules with respect to the irrigation district shall be printed in convenient form for distribution to the freeholders in the irrigation district.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34140 Right of entry upon land to survey; location of drains; acquisition of property; reservoirs for storage or transfers of Great Lakes water.**

Sec. 34140.

The irrigation board and its agents and employees may enter upon any land within the district to make surveys, and may locate the line of any drain or canal and the necessary branches of that location. The irrigation board may acquire, either by purchase or condemnation, all lands and other property necessary for the construction, use, maintenance, repair, and improvement of any canal, drain or drains, and lands for reservoirs or dams, for the storage of water, and for all necessary appurtenances thereto. The board may acquire by purchase or condemnation any irrigation works, dams, drains, canals, pumping equipment, pumps, or reservoirs for the use of the district. The irrigation board may construct the necessary dams, reservoirs, and works for the storage or transfer of Great Lakes water for the district, and may perform any lawful act necessary to furnish water to each landowner in the district for irrigation purposes.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34141 Advancement of money to pay costs; reimbursement by irrigation special assessment district; obligations.**

Sec. 34141.

Any person may advance money for the payment of any part of the cost of a project and shall be reimbursed by the irrigation special assessment district, with or without interest as may be agreed, when funds are available for that purpose. The obligation of the irrigation special assessment district to make the reimbursement may be evidenced by a contract or note, which contract or note may pledge the full faith and credit of the irrigation special assessment district and may be made payable out of the assessments made against properties in the irrigation special assessment district, out of the proceeds of bonds issued by the irrigation special assessment district pursuant to this part, or out of any other available funds, but the contract or note is subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995 ;-- Am. 2002, Act 220, Imd. Eff. Apr. 29, 2002

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34142 District accounts; duties of county treasurer; expenditure from district funds; bond interest; funds transfer.**

Sec. 34142.

The county treasurers of the counties in which the irrigation district is located shall carry all accounts and items pertaining thereto as a separate account upon the books of their office. A record shall be kept of the amount of money paid from the irrigation district funds for the use and benefit of any irrigation district and, upon payment to the county treasurer of taxes assessed by the irrigation district, the county treasurer shall pay for the outstanding interest on bonds issued out of the taxes received or shall transfer the excess of funds to the irrigation district fund for the use and benefit of the irrigation district.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34143 Irrigation district funds; deposit; interest; use.**

Sec. 34143.

The irrigation district funds shall be deposited by the county treasurer in a bank of the county in accordance with the general laws of this state, and interest so received shall belong to the irrigation district fund. Money collected or appropriated for an individual irrigation special assessment district fund shall be used solely for the use and benefit of the irrigation district for which it was raised or received.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34144 Irrigation district funds; county treasurers as custodians; deputies; bond; orders for payment.**

Sec. 34144.

The county treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the irrigation district. He or she may designate 1 or more of his or her deputies who may act for him or her in the performance of any of his or her duties under this section. The irrigation board may require the county treasurer and any deputy county treasurer, so designated, to furnish a bond payable to the irrigation district, in addition to any bond payable to the county, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his or her duties in respect to money belonging to the irrigation district, the premium on the bond to be paid by the irrigation district. Money held by the treasurer shall be paid out only upon order of the irrigation board, except that an order shall not be required for the payment of principal and interest on bonds.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34145 Revolving fund to pay for preliminary costs; assessment of preliminary costs; repayment of fund.**

Sec. 34145.

The county board of commissioners in which an irrigation district is proposed to be formed may provide for an appropriation to create a revolving fund to pay for the preliminary costs of irrigation improvement projects within the county. The preliminary costs shall be assessed to the property owners in the assessment district by the irrigation board after notice of the hearing is given as prescribed in section 34115 and Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1962, being sections 211.741 to 211.746 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The preliminary costs shall be repaid to the fund if the project is not finally constructed. The preliminary costs shall be repaid to the fund when a project is constructed out of the first bond proceeds, taxes, or assessments received.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**324.34146 Borrowing money; issuing bonds; anticipating collection of special assessments; amount; applicability of law.**

Sec. 34146.

The irrigation board may borrow money and issue the bonds of the special assessment district for that money in anticipation of the collection of special assessments to defray the cost of any improvement made under this part after the special assessment roll has been confirmed. The bonds shall not exceed the amount of the special



assessments in anticipation of the collection of which they are issued. The issuance of special assessment bonds shall be governed by the general laws of this state applicable to the issuance of special assessment bonds and in accordance with the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821. Bonds may be issued in anticipation of the collection of special assessments levied in respect to 2 or more public improvements, but no special assessment district shall be compelled to pay the obligation of any other special assessment district.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995 ;-- Am. 2002, Act 221, Imd. Eff. Apr. 29, 2002

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA