

CHAPTER 437

ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES TAX

Referred to in §29C.24, 331.401, 427A.1, 427B.17, 429.1, 437A.7, 437A.16, 441.19, 441.21, 441.47, 441.73

See chapter 437A for taxes on certain electricity and natural gas providers

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437.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Book”, “list”, “record”, or “schedule” kept by a county auditor, assessor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, or other county officer means the county system as defined in section 445.1.
2. “Company” means an electric cooperative referred to in section 437A.7, subsection 3, paragraph “c”.
3. “Electric cooperative” means an electric utility provider formed or organized as an electric cooperative under the laws of this state or elsewhere.
4. “Transmission lines” means electric lines and associated facilities operating at thirty-four thousand five hundred volts or higher voltage, and substations, transformers, and associated facilities operated at thirty-four thousand five hundred or more volts on the low voltage side.

[SS15, §1346-r; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7089; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.1]

95 Acts, ch 83, §25; 98 Acts, ch 1194, §32, 40; 2000 Acts, ch 1148, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1119, §200, 201

Referred to in §420.207

437.2 Statement required.

Every company owning or operating a transmission line or lines for the conduct of electric energy and which line or lines are located within the state, and which said line or lines are also located wholly or partly outside cities, shall, on or before the first day of May in each year, furnish to the department of revenue a verified statement as to its entire line or lines within this state, when all of said line or lines are located outside cities, and as to such portion of its line or lines within this state as are located outside cities, when such line or lines are located partly outside and partly inside cities, showing:

1. The total number of miles of line owned, operated, or leased, located outside cities within this state, with a separate showing of the number of miles leased.
2. The location and length of each division within the state and the character of poles, towers, wires, substation equipment, and other construction of each such division, designating the length and portion thereof in each separate county into which each such division extends.

[SS15, §1346-k; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7090; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.2]

2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §38, 75

Referred to in §437.5, 437.6, 437.11, 437.13, 437.15

437.3 Verification.

The verification of any statement required by law shall be made by some member, officer, or agent of the company having knowledge of the facts.

[SS15, §1346-r; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7091; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.3]

[98 Acts, ch 1194, §33, 40](#)

Referred to in [§420.207](#)

437.4 Additional statement.

Upon receipt of the statements from the companies, the department of revenue shall examine the statements, and if the department deems them insufficient, and that further information is required, the department shall require the company making the statements to make other or further statement as the department deems necessary, notifying the company by mail.

[SS15, §1346-l; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7092; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.4]

[86 Acts, ch 1241, §39; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §39, 75](#)

Referred to in [§437.5](#)

437.5 Failure to furnish.

In case of the total failure or refusal to make any statement required by [sections 437.2](#) and [437.4](#) to be made by May 1 in any year, or of failure or refusal to make other or further statement within thirty days from the time the notice is received by the company that the additional statement is required by the department of revenue, the company shall forfeit and pay to the state, one hundred dollars for each day the total failure or refusal to make any report is continued beyond the first day of May of the year in which it is required, or in case of any other or further report required by the department for each day it is delayed beyond thirty days from the receipt of the notice by the company that the additional report is required. The forfeiture shall be sued for and recovered in any proper form of action in the name of the state and on relation of the director of revenue of the state, and the penalty, when collected, shall be paid into the general fund of the state.

[SS15, §1346-l; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7093; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.5]

[86 Acts, ch 1241, §40; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §40, 75](#)

437.6 Actual value.

On or before October 31 each year, the department of revenue shall proceed to find the actual value of that part of such transmission line or lines referred to in [section 437.2](#), owned or operated by any company, that is located within this state but outside cities, including the whole of such line or lines when all of such line or lines owned or operated by said company is located wholly outside of cities, taking into consideration the information obtained from the statements required by [this chapter](#), and any further information obtainable, using the same as a means of determining the actual cash value of such transmission line or lines or part thereof, within this state, located outside of cities. The department shall then ascertain the value per mile of such transmission line or lines owned or operated by each company specified in [section 437.2](#), by dividing the total value as above ascertained by the number of miles of line of such company within the state located outside of cities, and the result shall be deemed and held to be the actual value per mile of said transmission line or lines of each of said companies within the state located outside of cities.

[SS15, §1346-m; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7094; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.6]

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2009 Acts, ch 60, §13; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §41, 75](#)

Referred to in [§437.11](#)

437.7 Taxable value.

The taxable value of such line or lines of which the department of revenue by [this chapter](#) is required to find the value, shall be determined by taking the percentage of the actual value

so ascertained, as provided by [section 441.21](#), and the ratio between the actual value and the assessed or taxable value of the transmission line or lines of each of said companies located outside of cities shall be the same as in the case of the property of private individuals.

[SS15, §1346-m; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7095; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.7]

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §42, 75](#)

Referred to in [§437.11](#)

437.8 Hearing.

At the time of determination of value by the department of revenue, any company interested shall have the right to appear by its officers, agents, and attorneys before the department, and be heard on the question of the value of its property for taxation.

[SS15, §1346-m; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7096; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.8]

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §43, 75](#)

Referred to in [§437.11](#)

437.9 County assessment — certification.

The department of revenue shall, for the purpose of determining what amount shall be assessed to any one of the companies in each county of the state into which the line or lines of the company extend, multiply the assessed or taxable value per mile of line of the company, as ascertained according to the provisions of [this chapter](#), by the number of miles of line in each of the counties, and the result thereof shall be certified by the department to the several county auditors of the respective counties into, over, or through which the line or lines extend.

[SS15, §1346-n; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7097; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.9]

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §44, 75; 2017 Acts, ch 54, §54](#)

Referred to in [§437.10, 437.11](#)

437.10 Levy and collection of tax.

At the first meeting of the board of supervisors held after the statements of the department of revenue under [section 437.9](#) are received by the county auditor, the board shall cause such statement to be entered in its minute book and make and enter in the minute book an order stating the length of the lines and the assessed value of the property of each of the companies situated in each township or lesser taxing district in each county outside cities, as fixed by the department of revenue, which shall constitute the taxable value of the property for taxing purposes. The county auditor shall transmit a copy of the order to the trustees of each township and to the proper taxing boards in lesser taxing districts into which the line or lines of the company extend in the county. The taxes on the property when collected by the county treasurer shall be disposed of as other taxes on real estate.

[SS15, §1346-o; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7098; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.10]

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2004 Acts, ch 1101, §56; 2015 Acts, ch 109, §45, 75; 2016 Acts, ch 1073, §118](#)

Referred to in [§331.512](#)

437.11 Rate — purposes.

Such portions of the transmission line or lines within the state referred to in [section 437.2](#), as are located outside cities, shall be taxable upon said assessment provided for by [sections 437.6 through 437.9](#) at the same rate, by the same officers and for the same purposes as property of individuals within such counties, townships, or lesser taxing districts, outside cities, and the county treasurer shall collect said taxes at the same time and in the same manner as other taxes, and the same penalties shall be due and collectible as for the nonpayment of individual taxes.

[SS15, §1346-p; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7099; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.11]

[2021 Acts, ch 80, §272](#)

437.12 Assessment exclusive.

Every transmission line or part of a transmission line, of which the department of revenue is required by [this chapter](#) to find the value, shall be exempt from other assessment or taxation either under [sections 428.24 through 428.26](#), or under any other law of this state except as provided in [this chapter](#).

[SS15, §1346-q; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7100; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.12]

[95 Acts, ch 83, §26](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#); [2015 Acts, ch 109, §46, 75](#); [2021 Acts, ch 80, §273](#)

437.13 Local assessment.

All lands, buildings, machinery, poles, towers, wires, station and substation equipment, and other construction owned or operated by any company referred to in [section 437.2](#), and where this property is located within any city within this state, shall be listed and assessed for taxation in the same manner as provided in [sections 428.24, 428.25, and 428.29](#), for the listing and assessment of that part of the lands, buildings, machinery, tracks, poles, and wires within the limits of any city belonging to individuals or corporations furnishing electric light or power, and where this property, except the capital stock, is situated partly within and partly without the limits of a city. All personal property of every company owning or operating any transmission line referred to in [section 437.2](#), used or purchased by it for the purpose of the transmission line, shall be listed and assessed in the assessment district where usually kept and housed and under [sections 428.26 and 428.29](#).

[SS15, §1346-q; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7101; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.13]

[95 Acts, ch 83, §27](#)

437.14 Cooperative corporations or associations — assessment. Repealed by 98 Acts, ch 1194, §39, 40. See [chapter 437A](#).

437.15 Reassessment — procedure and requirements.

[Sections 433.14, 433.15, 439.1, and 439.2](#) shall apply to the property of transmission lines which are referred to in [section 437.2](#).

[SS15, §1346-t; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7103; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §437.15]

For future amendment to this section, effective July 1, 2024, see 2018 Acts, ch 1158, §17, 28