AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY IN A LAKE.

SUMMARY

This bill makes it easier to create a special taxing district to maintain lake water quality by allowing a simple majority of referendum or special meeting voters to approve its creation, rather than a two-thirds majority as required under current law.

The bill explicitly specifies that people voting at a meeting or referendum concerning a lake water quality district's creation need not be electors of the municipality in which the district is proposed. By law, a person can vote at a meeting or referendum to create a district if he or she is either an elector of the municipality (i.e., a registered voter) or a U.S. citizen age 18 or older who is liable to the municipality for taxes on an assessment of at least $1,000. The latter group includes (1) nonresident property owners and (2) resident property owners age 18 or older who are not registered voters.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Forming Special Taxing Districts

The residents of an area within a municipality can form a special taxing district to perform a number of services, including providing police and fire protection, operating recreational facilities, and collecting garbage (CGS §§ 7-324 et seq.). The statutes specify the process for forming a special taxing district. Residents of the proposed district may establish a district either at a special meeting called for that purpose or through a referendum.
Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  19  Nay  0  (03/08/2019)