OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5355 (as amended by House "A")

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.

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. Under the bill, at a meeting or referendum concerning a lake water quality district's creation, voters include any owner of real property located in the proposed district. The bill explicitly prohibits any requirement that such voter be an elector of the town where the district is proposed to be located.

*House Amendment “A” adds the provision on owners of any real property voting at a meeting concerning a lake water quality district's creation and makes technical and conforming changes.

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.

COMMITTEE ACTION
Planning and Development Committee

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