



# Town of Manchester

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April 30, 2019

Written Testimony

David A Greaves, C.C.M.C.

Collector of Delinquent Revenue, Town of Manchester

Raised Bill SB 1135 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes

This testimony is respectfully submitted in opposition of raised SB 1135, which would allow municipalities a local option to charge an interest rate less than 18% on delinquent property taxes.

Tax Collectors are governed by Connecticut General Statutes which require all municipalities to act in a uniform and consistent manner. As with any general statute that is created by our legislation, uniformity is the key. The intent is always to make sure that everyone, not just a select few, are treated fairly under the law and the law itself is justifiable.

Not maintaining a uniform interest rate on delinquent tax bills throughout the state sends a clear message to residents that you will NOT be treated the same from one town to the next. This will cause many chronically delinquent taxpayers to register their vehicles in towns who may adopt a lower interest rate. In turn, this will create a reduction of motor vehicle property values in towns that choose to remain at the 18% interest rate and an increase in workload for ALL towns in maintaining accurate motor vehicle Grand Lists.

We already have taxpayers that attempt to avoid paying taxes by registering their vehicles out of state. Such deceptive practices will inevitably be made worse in those towns that maintain the 18% interest rate. The brunt of the financial impact will lie squarely on the shoulders of home owners and local businesses for those municipalities affected by such deceptive taxpayers. Keeping the interest rate the same of all jurisdictions eliminates any incentive for such practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony-opposing SB 1135. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding our submission, please contact my office at 860.647.3030 8:30AM TO 5:00PM.

Sincerely,

David A Greaves  
Collector of Delinquent Revenue, Town of Manchester, CT

