

SB 1135 – An Act Concerning The Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes

I am an Assistant Collector of Revenue for the town of Winchester. Our town has a population with a lower than average income as well as a greater population of the elderly. We rely heavily on interest charges to make up the town budget. I believe that if we were forced to lower our interest rate, this would put a greater burden on the taxpayers as a whole. In order to make up the interest our mill rate would have to increase, meaning those who own property will be paying more. I do not believe a lower interest rate will help those who are struggling to pay on time.

What I am most concerned about is that this change would result in a lack of uniformity across CT tax offices. This would affect everything that I and my peers have learned. Class structures for the CCMC certification would have to shift. Banks would be greatly affected as they would then have to learn and calculate the interest rates for each town. Fair and equal treatment is a cornerstone of my job. If each town charged their own interest rate it would become very difficult to ensure that the taxpayers are being charged correctly.

I urge you to consider my thoughts as this bill goes through legislation. Please consider the overall negative affect this would have on my town and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn R. McSherry
Assistant Collector of Revenue
Town of Winchester