

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. Maintaining a uniform interest rate of 18% throughout the state sends a clear message to residents that you will be treated the same regardless of your town. In addition, an interest rate of 18% on delinquent property taxes is meant to act as a deterrent prompting a resident to pay their taxes on time. We should not provide a benefit to the delinquent taxpayer at the expense of residents and businesses who pay their bills on time.

Allowing a local option where the interest rate may vary from town to town will weaken the strength of Tax Collectors. Presently we can state with confidence that throughout Connecticut all delinquent taxpayers are treated the same as we are bound by state statute. A uniform State Statute adds integrity and fairness to every taxpayer in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony-opposing SB 1135.

Carol W. Price CCMC
Tax Collector
Town of Columbia