

Connecticut Tax Collectors Association

April 30, 2019

Testimony Against SB 1135

An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes

I am writing this to inform you that I am opposed to SB 1135. As a Tax Collector, I feel it is important that tax payers are treated equitably. The Tax Collector position is governed by state statutes and this insures equal treatment to taxpayers across the state. This certainly is important when it comes to delinquent tax payers. All tax payers should be penalized by the same amount. The interest has been set at 1 ½% per month to encourage taxpayers to make their payments. Paying your taxes should be a priority because the town needs to fulfill their financial obligations. If you allow a local option I do not think that the result will be equitable. In fact it would likely result in more affluent communities to drop the interest rate and the poorer communities to have a higher rate. It also may cause more delinquencies because the incentive to pay would be diminished.

I believe that keeping the interest rate the same for all municipalities is beneficial to keeping an equitable tax structure. Maintaining a strong structure that is governed by state statute also keeps a fair system that is not swayed by political motives.

Please oppose SB 1135.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Q. Sinatra CCMC
Tax Collector - Brookfield