Special District Grant Accessibility Act
Sponsored by Representative Pat Fallon (R-TX)
& Representative Brittany Pettersen (D-CO)
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NSDC
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

Approximately 35,000 special districts are local governments providing critical infrastructure and essential services in thousands of communities across the country. They exist when a community demands a service that another unit of government is not otherwise providing. These agencies are established and locally governed under an enabling act or special act of a state to provide a limited and specific set of public services.

The Problem

Despite the significant presence of special districts in the U.S.,

Federal law lacks a consistent definition and reference to special purpose units of local government.

As a result, special districts:

- May have difficulties directly accessing funding opportunities.
- Are commonly omitted as eligible in the definitions of "local government" for proposed legislation and laws intended to assist all local governments.
- Are mistaken for small businesses or nonprofit corporations.
- Lack official population figures, as they are not federally recognized as "geographic units of government."

The Solution: H.R. 7525

The Special District Grant Accessibility Act

- Requires Federal agencies to recognize special districts as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations.

- Codifies in Federal law a first-ever, formal definition of "special district."

"Special District" Defined

H.R. 7525 - The Special District Grant Accessibility Act, defines "special district" as follows:

"The term "special district" means a **political subdivision of a State**, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, created by or pursuant to the laws of the State, for the **purpose of performing limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions** that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a State.

Common Services Provided

- Water & Wastewater
- Irrigation
- Fire Protection
- Ambulance
- Transit
- Healthcare & Hospital
- Park & Recreation
- Port/Harbor/Navigation
- Library
- Cemetery
- Road & Highway
- Airport
- Electricity
- Mosquito Control
- Resource Conservation

Quick Facts

35,000
Special District Governments

17%
All local government revenue

50 states

Connect & Engage on Solutions

NSDC is the only national organization representing and advocating for all types of special districts at the federal level.

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