

Special District Grant Accessibility Act

Sponsored by Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) & Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

Introduced: July 11, 2024

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

The Solution: S. 4673

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 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

S. 4673 - The Special District Grant Accessibility Act, definines "special district" as follows:

Irrigation

👫 Ambulance

🚻 Transit

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

Healthcare & Hospital



Road & Highway



Special District Governments

35.000



All local government revenue

50 states

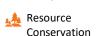
Quick Facts

★ Airport Rark & Recreation Port/Harbor/ 🚠 Fire Protection

Navigation Library



Electricity Mosquito Control



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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