



Tyler August

State Representative • 32nd Assembly District

Assembly Committee on Urban & Local Affairs

February 11, 2016

Assembly Bill 706

Thank you Chairman Brooks and committee members for having a hearing on Assembly Bill 706, a bill that I have authored on behalf of the Delavan Township in my district.

AB 706 simply allows a township to increase the membership of a town sanitary district commission from three to five or reduce their membership from five to three. This is only allowed if the members of the town's sanitary district commission are different from the members of the town board.

Currently, the Town of Delavan's sanitary district commission has three members and there have been issues in getting a quorum to act on district business. This legislation would give their town board and other town boards around the state the power to increase the size of the sanitary district membership to deal with these quorum issues. If these issues no longer exist, then they would have the power to reduce the membership back down to three.

Through this legislation, we simply give local townships more control over the administration of their sanitary districts. No township will be required to change the number of their commissioners. This is just an option for townships if they need additional flexibilities.

It is also important to point out that the senate companion for AB 706 has already passed the Senate on a voice vote and no one has registered against the bill.

Thank you, again, for holding this hearing and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



AB 706 Town Sanitary District Commission Size Flexibility

Testimony of Senator Steve Nass

Assembly Committee on Urban & Local Affairs

February 11, 2016 • 400 Northeast, State Capitol

Thank you chairman Brooks and committee members for allowing me to testify in support of Assembly Bill 706. This legislation will increase flexibility for local governments by authorizing a town to increase the number of commissioners on a town sanitary district commission from 3 to 5, if the commission is separate from the town board. A town can also reduce the number of commissioners from 5 back to 3.

Under the bill, a town meeting cannot direct their town board to change the number of commissioners more frequently than once every two years. The membership of a sanitary district commission will remain the same as the membership of the town board, if the town board performs the functions of the commission. The bill also maintains existing law that staggers the terms of elected sanitary commission members.

The request for this change came from Town of Delavan elected officials in my district. They have experienced difficulty at times obtaining a quorum to act on their sanitary district commission with only 3 members. It would also reduce any chance of inadvertently violating open meeting requirements when two members happen to be at events together.

AB 706 will increase flexibility for local governments by giving them the option to increase the size of their sanitary district commission if authorized at a town meeting. It does not require any town to increase their commission's size. We have worked with the Wisconsin Towns Association in crafting the bill's language and they are supportive of it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of AB 706. If any committee members have further questions, I would happy to answer them at this time.

“In God We Trust”

11th Senate District

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