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Special District Grant Accessibility Act Sponsored by Representative Pat Fallon (R-TX) & Representative Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) Introduced: March 5, 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

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."

## "Special District" Defined

# 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."

#### H.R. 7525 - The Special District Grant Accessibility Act, definines "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.





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