

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Conservation District Act is amended by
5 changing Sections 15 and 15.1 as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 410/15) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 7116)

7 Sec. 15. (a) Whenever a district does not have sufficient
8 money in its treasury to meet all necessary expenses and
9 liabilities thereof, it may issue tax anticipation warrants.
10 Such issue of tax anticipation warrants shall be subject to the
11 provisions of Section 2 of "An Act to provide for the manner of
12 issuing warrants upon the treasurer of the State or of any
13 county, township, or other municipal corporation or quasi
14 municipal corporation, or of any farm drainage district, river
15 district, drainage and levee district, fire protection
16 district and jurors' certificates", approved June 27, 1913, as
17 now and hereafter amended.

18 (b) For the purpose of acquisition of real property, or
19 rights thereto, a district may incur indebtedness and, as
20 evidence of the indebtedness thus created, may issue and sell
21 bonds without first obtaining the consent of the legal voters
22 of the district.

23 (b-5) For the purpose of development of real property, all

1 or a portion of which has been acquired with
2 referendum-approved bonds, a district located entirely within
3 McHenry County may incur indebtedness and, as evidence of the
4 indebtedness thus created, may issue and sell bonds without
5 first obtaining the consent of the legal voters of the
6 district. Development, for the purposes of this subsection
7 (b-5), shall mean the improvement or maintenance of existing
8 trails, parking lots, bridges, roads, picnic shelters, and
9 other improvements, adding or improving access to conservation
10 areas or district facilities to comply with the Americans with
11 Disabilities Act, demolition of unnecessary or unsafe
12 structures, and the stabilization, revitalization or
13 rehabilitation of historic structures.

14 (c) For the purpose of development of real property, a
15 district may incur indebtedness and, as evidence of the
16 indebtedness thus created, may issue and sell bonds only after
17 the proposition to issue bonds has been submitted to the legal
18 voters of the district at an election and has been approved by
19 a majority of those voting on the proposition. Such election is
20 subject to Section 15.1 of this Act.

21 (d) No district shall become indebted in any manner or for
22 any purpose, to any amount including existing indebtedness in
23 the aggregate exceeding 0.575% of the value, as equalized or
24 assessed by the Department of Revenue, of the taxable property
25 therein; except that a district entirely within a county of
26 under 750,000 inhabitants and contiguous to a county of more

1 than 2,000,000 inhabitants may incur indebtedness, including
2 existing indebtedness, in the aggregate not exceeding 1.725% of
3 that value if the aggregate indebtedness over 0.575% is
4 submitted to the legal voters of the district at an election
5 and is approved by a majority of those voting on the
6 proposition as provided in Section 15.1.

7 The following do not in any way limit the right of a
8 district to issue non-referendum bonds under this Section:
9 bonds heretofore or hereafter issued and outstanding that are
10 approved by referendum, as described in this subsection (d);
11 refunding bonds issued to refund or continue to refund bonds
12 approved by referendum; and bonds issued under this Section
13 that have been paid in full or for which provisions for payment
14 have been made by an irrevocable deposit of funds in an amount
15 sufficient to pay the principal and interest on those bonds to
16 their respective maturity date.

17 (e) Before or at the time of issuing bonds as described in
18 this Section ~~for acquisition or development of real property,~~
19 the district shall provide by ordinance for the collection of
20 an annual tax, in addition to all other taxes authorized by
21 this act, sufficient to pay such bonds and the interest thereon
22 as the same respectively become due. Such bonds shall be
23 divided into series, the first of which shall mature not later
24 than 5 years after the date of issue and the last of which
25 shall mature not later than 25 years after the date of issue;
26 shall bear interest at a rate or rates not exceeding the

1 maximum rate permitted in "An Act to authorize public
2 corporations to issue bonds, other evidences of indebtedness
3 and tax anticipation warrants subject to interest rate
4 limitations set forth therein", approved May 26, 1970, as now
5 or hereafter amended; shall be in such form as the district
6 shall by resolution provide and shall be payable as to both
7 principal and interest from the proceeds of the annual levy of
8 taxes authorized to be levied by this Section, or so much
9 thereof as will be sufficient to pay the principal thereof and
10 the interest thereon. Prior to the authorization and issuance
11 of such bonds the district may, with or without notice,
12 negotiate and enter into an agreement or agreements with any
13 bank, investment banker, trust company or insurance company or
14 group thereof whereunder the marketing of such bonds may be
15 assured and consummated. The proceeds of such bonds shall be
16 deposited in a special fund, to be kept separate and apart from
17 all other funds of the conservation district.

18 (Source: P.A. 96-1178, eff. 7-22-10.)

19 (70 ILCS 410/15.1) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 7117)

20 Sec. 15.1. When the board of a district proposes to incur
21 indebtedness and issue bonds, other than tax anticipation
22 warrants, for the purpose of development of real property as
23 provided in subsection (c) of Section 15 of this Act, or for
24 the purpose of incurring indebtedness in the aggregate over
25 0.575% as provided in subsection (d) of Section 15, it shall

1 order a referendum on the proposition.

2 The district shall adopt an ordinance calling for the
3 referendum and setting forth the proposition. The clerk or
4 secretary of the district shall certify the ordinance and the
5 proposition to the proper election officials who shall submit
6 the proposition to the voters of the district at a referendum
7 in accordance with the general election law. For a bond
8 proposition put forward by a district organized under this Act,
9 including a forest preserve district created under Section
10 18.5, the ballot must have printed on it, but not as part of
11 the proposition submitted, the following language:

12 The approximate impact of the proposed increase on the
13 owner of a single-family home having a market value of
14 (insert value) would be (insert amount) in the first year
15 of the increase if the increase is fully implemented.

16 (Source: P.A. 97-364, eff. 8-15-11.)