
Local Government & Housing Committee

HB 2170

Brief Description: Modifying election provisions for the creation of a lake management district.

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander and Quall.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Alters the requirements to initiate a lake management district by petition to require the signatures of a simple majority of over 50 percent of landowners.
- Alters the creation of a district to be valid only with over 50 percent of the votes cast.

Hearing Date: 1/28/02

Staff: Scott MacColl (786-7106).

Background:

Lake management districts are limited purpose districts that allow property owners to finance the maintenance and improvement of lakes. Property owners impose special assessments on the property included in the district for activities such as control and removal of aquatic plants, water quality, and storm water diversion and treatment. These districts may be for lakes and surrounding property that is wholly or partially within a particular county.

Lake management districts may be initiated by a resolution of the county legislative authority or the filing of a petition signed by 10 land owners or the owners of at least 15 percent of the acreage contained within the proposed district, whichever is greater. Once a petition is validated, the county legislative authority must hold a public hearing, and then submit the question of creating the district to the landowners in the proposed district.

Ballots must be signed by the property owner, returned by no later than 30 days after mailing, marked for or against. Ballots marked in favor must be weighted so that the property owner has one vote for each dollar of estimated special assessment or rate and charge proposed on the property. One district is created with a simple majority of final

votes.

Summary of Bill:

The requirements for a petition to create a lake management district are altered to require a simple majority of over 50 percent of landowners. The requirement that ballots in favor are weighted so that the property owner has one vote for each dollar of estimated special assessment or rate and charge proposed on the property is removed, and altered to reflect one voter per property owner. Also, the final votes cast must reflect a majority of over 50 percent for the district to be created.

Removes the weighted voting requirement for additional elections to increase the special assessment rate.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.