

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.)