

# TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

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## RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE OPPOSITION TO RHODE ISLAND 2021 H5269 TAX SALE LEGISLATION


- WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville pursuant to Rhode Island statute and the Town of Burrillville Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Burrillville, RI on behalf of its business entities and citizens; and
- WHEREAS, the Town of Burrillville has within its jurisdiction four (4) fire districts, two (2) water districts, a sewer district and a utility district; and
- WHEREAS, the House Bill 5269 premise is flawed that affected districts use of Tax Sales actually results in delinquent taxpayers and/or rate payers losing their properties at the end of the multi-year process (one of the fire districts in Burrillville recently began a Tax Sale with a list of 222 properties, of which 95% had sufficient payments made to be removed from the list by the date of the tax sale and none actually lost their property); and
- WHEREAS, the House Bill 5269 diminishes the effectiveness of a “threat of a Tax Sale” to encourage delinquent taxpayers and/or rate payers to enter into payment agreements which will bring their accounts current; and
- WHEREAS, the affected districts have in common capital intensive infrastructure costs in buildings, apparatus and equipment; and inelastic variable costs heavily influenced by unique labor requirements for specific skill sets; such that minimal discretionary expenses exist which can be reduced to cover a revenue shortfall without a dramatic reduction in service to the taxpayers and/or rate payers; and
- WHEREAS, the affected districts’ source of revenue is predominantly from the taxpayers and/or rate payers in their jurisdiction based on an established rate sufficient to meet budgeted expenses each year on the premise that all will pay their obligation; and
- WHEREAS, to the extent some taxpayers and/or rate payers do not pay their obligation, all other payers suffer an unjust consequence by either a reduction in service or increased subsequent rates to offset the shortfall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville opposes House Bill 5269 as: (1) a misguided attempt to solve a problem that does not exist, (2) a measure to unjustly handcuff the affected fire, water, sewer and utility districts from operating their businesses by effectively eliminating the most effective means to recover delinquent tax/rate obligations due them, and (3) a burden to the diligent taxpayer and/or rate payer with potential increased costs or reduced service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville strongly opposes House Bill 5269 as legislative overreach under the pretense of compassion for property owners that for whatever reason become delinquent in their obligations, but in reality is a measure that impedes the normal transaction of business for entities serving the public good and welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island municipality, State Senators, State Representatives, and the Governor respectfully requesting their support.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
Donald A. Fox, President  
Burrillville Town Council

  
ATTEST:   
Vicki Martin, Town Clerk