



SB22-75

Cemetery District Boards and Ability to Remove for Cause

Sponsors: Sen. Simpson; Reps. Catlin and Bird

Local governments in Colorado are empowered to create a wide number of local special districts that address various community needs, including irrigation, pest control, ambulance service, recreation, marketing, libraries and local improvements/services like wastewater treatment, storm drainage and fire protection.

Counties are also able to create cemetery districts that oversee the creation, operation, staffing and fiscal oversight of local cemeteries, burial grounds and mausoleums. Cemetery districts typically offer funeral and burial services and can provide information on burial records and historic graveyard plots. There are currently 81 cemetery districts around the state of Colorado.

Commissioners are responsible for appointing the boards of all these various special districts. In most cases, commissioners also have the authority to remove a board member if they break the law or otherwise violate their oath of office. This authority to remove a board member “for cause” does not extend to cemetery district boards.

SB 75 would establish explicit authority for counties to dismiss a cemetery district board member for cause. This ability to dismiss a board member for cause would cover actions such as gross negligence, the commission of a felony or gross misdemeanor, the willful violation of rules and regulations or breach of fiduciary duty involving personal profit. The bill ensures that district board members are given notice prior to dismissal and have an opportunity to be heard during a public hearing.

SB 75 is a good governance bill that ensures taxpayer money is spent in a proper manner and that local government services are being delivered at a high standard.

Please Support SB22-75

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