



## Special District Association of Colorado

To: Members, Colorado House of Representatives  
From: Ann Terry, Executive Director  
Evan Goulding and MaryKay Hogan, Legislative Consultants  
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The Special District Association urges your favorable consideration of HB 13-1302.

**House Bill 13-1302 seeks to remove an unnecessary impediment to special district consolidations.** When two or more adjoining special districts are providing the same services, it frequently makes sense for the two districts to consolidate, becoming a single consolidated district. A well-structured consolidation can result in operating efficiencies, elimination of administration and governance duplications, and overall cost savings. Unfortunately an impediment to districts pursuing consolidation is a burdensome, costly and time-consuming procedure built into special district law. **HB13-1302 will have the effect of removing that impediment.**

Under current law, when two or more special districts choose to consolidate and become one entity resulting in the creation of a single consolidated district, or the consolidation of services *within the boundaries of an existing municipality or within a radius of three miles of such municipality*, the proposing districts must follow the same process as when a new district is created, or when a new service is to be added, namely the filing of a request for service plan approval by the County or municipality, as applicable. This procedure is extensive, requiring multiple studies and documents, public hearings, and frequently involves amendments to the service plans. Besides being extensive, the process is expensive and time-consuming.

When a new service is to be added through the consolidation, or expanded into new territories, this process is appropriate, providing an opportunity for the county or municipality to review the need for, and appropriateness of the expansion of services or territory, to make sure that it is consistent with the plans and needs of the community.

**When the services provided and the territory to be served will be exactly the same after the consolidation as before, however, the service plan hearing and approval process that was conducted when the districts were formed should be adequate, and there is no need for further review at the time of consolidation.**

House Bill 13-1302 simply eliminates the need to go through the service plan review process again, if the consolidated district will provide no services not provided by the districts that are consolidating, and will serve no territory not previously served by the districts that are consolidating.