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Give Schools Taxing Power? Officials Have Concerns.

What if school districts were independent fiscal authorities, with budgeting and taxing powers separate from municipal finance boards, mayors and selectmen? A bill before the legislature proposes just that, and is drawing concern from local officials.

“Oh yeah. It showed up over the weekend,” First Selectman Rudy Marconi said of ‘HB-7319, An Act Concerning The Fiscal Independence Of School Districts.’

“This bill is concerning for a lot of us,” he said.

The bill would require local and regional school districts with fewer than 15,000 students — Ridgefield’s school system is about a third that size — to become taxing authorities, separate from any municipality.

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