General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7208

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **6069**

Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA ON THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER ASSETS OR THE PRIVATIZATION OF MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT SERVICES OR FUNCTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act, charter or home rule ordinance and except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in any municipality where the legislative body has authorized, on or after July 1, 2025, such municipality to enter into an agreement for (A) the sale of any municipal authority or other municipal asset, excluding unimproved real property, to a private company, or (B) the provision of services or the performance of functions by a private company that are substantially similar to and in lieu of services provided or functions performed by municipal employees, a petition signed by ten per cent or more of the electors of such municipality may be filed with the municipal clerk, not later than thirty days after the legislative body has granted such authorization, proposing that such authorization be submitted to the electors of the municipality at the next regular election.

(2) If the municipal clerk determines that a petition described in subdivision (1) of this subsection satisfies the requirements of said subdivision, such municipal clerk shall notify the legislative body and chief executive officer of such municipality that the necessary action has been taken for submission to the electors and a referendum shall be held at the next regular election, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 152 of the general statutes, on whether to approve of the legislative body's authorization under said subdivision.

(3) If a majority of the electors voting at the referendum held pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection approve of the legislative body's authorization under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the municipality may proceed with entering into an agreement for the purposes of subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, of subdivision (1) of this subsection. If a majority of such electors do not so approve, the municipality may not so proceed.

(b) In any municipality operating under a special act, charter or home rule ordinance pursuant to which less than ten per cent of the electors of such municipality may file a petition to hold a referendum on a matter described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the provisions of such special act, charter or home rule ordinance shall prevail over the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that a municipality's decision to sell an authority or other asset, or privatize a department's services or functions, shall, upon the petition of ten per cent of the electors of such municipality, be put to a referendum and voted upon by the electors of such municipality.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]