

## **Legislature - First Session - 2015**

### **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB378**

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**Chairperson: Senator Sue Crawford**

**Committee: Urban Affairs**

**Date of Hearing: 2/17/2015**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Under 16-697.02, the mayor and city council have the power to borrow money and pledge as security the property and credit of the city in order to buy and improve land for parks, recreational facilities, and public grounds, as long as authority is first obtained by placing the proposal on the ballot at a general election and obtaining a majority of the vote.

This bill protects the citizens by adding the specific type of financing to the ballot language, so that the voter can make an informed decision. It makes a difference regarding the decision the voter will make on the proposal if the project will be funded by revenue bonds - paid by the projects own revenues - or general obligation bonds - paid by the cities' general fund which is generated by property, sales, and miscellaneous taxes.

This bill further mandates that any proposed refinance from one type of bond to another form of financing be authorized by a new vote of the citizens, so as to not change taxpayer liability without their consent.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Mike Groene**

