



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7146

LCO No. 5740



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "chief elected official" has the same
4 meaning as provided in section 4-124i, "municipality" means any town,
5 city or borough, and "sufficient circulation" means a total readership of
6 not less than fifteen per cent of the households in a municipality, as
7 determined by the most recent decennial census, where such readership
8 is calculated as the sum of the average number of print and online
9 subscribers and unique online visitors in such municipality each month
10 over the preceding twelve-month period.

11 (b) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the
12 charter, ordinances or regulations of any [town, city or borough which]
13 municipality that requires the insertion of an advertisement of a legal
14 notice in a daily newspaper shall, until June 30, 2026, be construed to
15 permit such advertisement to be inserted in a weekly newspaper. [; but

16 this section shall not be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the time
17 required by law for giving such notice.]

18 (c) (1) During the period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30,
19 2027, each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the
20 charter, ordinances or regulations of any municipality that requires the
21 insertion of an advertisement of a legal notice in a newspaper shall be
22 construed to require such advertisement (A) in the daily or weekly
23 newspaper selected in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, or
24 (B) if no newspaper is determined to have sufficient circulation and
25 selected, on the Internet web site of such municipality, in accordance
26 with subsection (e) of this section.

27 (2) On and after July 1, 2027, each provision of the general statutes,
28 the special acts or the charter, ordinances or regulations of any
29 municipality that requires the insertion of an advertisement of a legal
30 notice in a newspaper shall be construed to require such advertisement
31 (A) in the daily or weekly newspaper selected in accordance with
32 subsection (d) of this section, if such newspaper is determined to have
33 sufficient circulation and selected, and (B) on the Internet web site of
34 such municipality, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e)
35 of this section.

36 (d) (1) Not later than April 30, 2026, and not less than every two years
37 thereafter, the chief elected official of each municipality shall identify
38 each daily or weekly newspaper that publishes or seeks to publish legal
39 notices in such municipality and determine whether each such
40 newspaper has sufficient circulation. Each determination by such
41 official that a newspaper has sufficient circulation shall be based on data
42 provided by each such newspaper, including, but not limited to, the
43 average number of print and online subscribers and unique online
44 visitors in such municipality each month over the preceding twelve-
45 month period. Such data shall be provided in a form and manner
46 prescribed by such official.

47 (2) Not later than June 30, 2026, and not less than every two years
 48 thereafter, the chief elected official of each municipality that identifies
 49 one or more daily or weekly newspapers having sufficient circulation
 50 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall select one such
 51 newspaper to publish legal notices in such municipality. If such chief
 52 elected official identifies two or more such newspapers, such selection
 53 shall be based on criteria developed by such chief elected official.

54 (e) Each municipality required to publish legal notices on the Internet
 55 web site of such municipality pursuant to subsection (c) of this section
 56 shall (1) post a link on the home page of such Internet web site through
 57 which the public may access such legal notices, (2) publish each such
 58 legal notice on such Internet web site for a period of not less than ninety
 59 days, and (3) (A) file a copy of each such legal notice in the office of the
 60 clerk of the municipality on the day such legal notice is published on
 61 such Internet web site, or (B) transmit a copy of each such legal notice
 62 by electronic mail to the regional council of governments for the region
 63 in which such municipality is located.

64 (f) Whenever notice of any action or other proceeding is required to
 65 be given by publication in a newspaper, either by statute or order of
 66 court, the newspaper selected for that purpose, unless otherwise
 67 expressly prescribed, shall be one having a substantial circulation in the
 68 town in which at least one of the parties, for whose benefit such notice
 69 is given, resides.

70 (g) Any error in a legal notice published by a municipality in
 71 accordance with this section that is not attributable to such municipality
 72 shall not affect the validity of such notice. Nothing in this section shall
 73 be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the time required by law for
 74 giving legal notice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2025	1-2
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Statement of Purpose:

To require municipalities to publish legal notice (1) for the period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, in a newspaper having sufficient circulation in such municipality, or, if no such newspaper exists, on the Internet web site of such municipality, and (2) on and after July 1, 2027, in a newspaper having sufficient circulation in such municipality, if such newspaper exists, and on the Internet web site 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.]