



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 62

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5289

House of Representatives, March 18, 2026

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. KAVROS DEGRAW of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES.

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 Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2026*):

3 [Each] (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
4 any provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter,
5 ordinances or regulations of any [town, city or borough which]
6 municipality that requires the [insertion of an advertisement]
7 publication of a legal notice in a daily newspaper shall be construed to
8 permit such [advertisement to be inserted] publication in a weekly
9 newspaper. [; but this section shall not be construed to reduce or
10 otherwise affect the time required by law for giving such notice.]

11 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, if
12 a provision described in subdivision (1) of this subsection applies to a

13 municipality, such provision shall be construed to (A) require the
 14 posting of such notice, which notice shall include the date of such
 15 posting, in a conspicuous location on the Internet web site of such
 16 municipality, and (B) permit such publication in a daily or weekly
 17 newspaper in addition to such posting on such Internet web site. If any
 18 provision of the general statutes, any special act or any local charter,
 19 ordinance or regulation requires a municipality to publish a notice more
 20 than once, a municipality may comply with such requirement by
 21 posting such notice on the Internet web site of the municipality the
 22 number of times and at such intervals as required by such provision. A
 23 municipality shall retain a physical copy of each notice posted on such
 24 municipality's Internet web site for not less than one year following such
 25 posting.

26 (b) Whenever notice of any action or other proceeding is required to
 27 be given by publication in a newspaper, either by statute or order of
 28 court, the newspaper selected for that purpose, unless otherwise
 29 expressly prescribed, shall be one [having] that has a substantial
 30 circulation in the [town] municipality in which at least one of the parties,
 31 for whose benefit such notice is given, resides.

32 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to reduce or otherwise
 33 affect the time required by law for giving such notice.

34 (d) For the purposes of this section, "municipality" means a town, city
 35 or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and
 36 borough.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	1-2

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
All Municipalities	Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in savings for all municipalities beginning in FY 27 to the extent that municipalities no longer publish certain notices in daily or weekly newspapers.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of towns that stop printing certain notices in newspapers.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5289*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill broadly eliminates the requirement that municipalities publish legal notices in a newspaper and instead requires municipalities to post most required legal notices on their websites. Under the bill, municipalities may also opt to publish a notice in a daily or weekly newspaper.

Various existing state and local laws (statutes, special acts, charters, ordinances, and regulations) currently require municipalities to publish legal notices in a newspaper (such as notice of a town meeting, tax sale, or certain land use approvals). The specific requirements for publication under each law varies (e.g., publication deadlines or minimum frequency).

Specifically, whenever a state or local law requires newspaper publication, the bill instead requires municipalities to post these notices conspicuously on their website. The notice must also include the posting date and the municipality must keep a physical copy of the notice for at least a year after posting it. If a notice must be published multiple times under a state or local law, the municipality can comply by posting it to its website the required number of times at the required intervals. (The bill specifies its provisions do not change existing state or local laws on publication deadlines or minimum frequency.)

The bill only applies to legal notices that must be published by a municipality pursuant to a state or local law. It does not affect notices that (1) must be published pursuant to other authority, like a court order, or (2) non-municipal entities or people must publish.

(“Municipality” includes a town, city, borough, consolidated town and city, and consolidated town and borough.)

The bill also makes minor and conforming changes, including specifically applying the law on determining how to publish municipal legal notices to notices required by local ordinances and regulations, rather than only those required by statutes, special acts, and charters, as current law does.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/06/2026)