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## **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)