



House of Representatives

File No. 608

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 62)

Substitute House Bill No. 5289
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 13, 2026

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 Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the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) If a provision described in subdivision (1) of this subsection
12 applies to a municipality, such provision shall be construed to (A)

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

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

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

37 (d) For the purposes of this section, "municipality" means a town, city
 38 or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and
 39 borough.

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

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 as amended 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.

House Amendment "A" allows municipalities to publish certain notices on various internet websites and requires physical copies of these notices to be stored with a signed and dated affidavit. These changes do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5289 (as amended by House "A")******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 opt to also publish a notice on websites they choose or 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, such as publication deadlines or minimum frequency, vary under each law.

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. The physical copy must be accompanied by an affidavit from the person required to post the notice, or their designee, attesting to the posting's date and time. 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 must be published (1) pursuant to other authority, such as a court order, or (2) by non-municipal entities or people. (A “municipality” is a town, city, borough, consolidated town and city, or 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

*House Amendment “A” adds the provision requiring an affidavit on the posting’s date and time to be submitted and makes minor clarifying changes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/06/2026)