
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)