



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 472

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 6619

House of Representatives, April 22, 2003

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 7-191 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (d) Not later than fifteen days after receiving the final report, the
5 appointing authority, by a majority vote of its entire membership, shall
6 either approve the proposed charter, charter amendments or home
7 rule ordinance amendments or reject the same or separate provisions
8 thereof. Not later than forty-five days after a vote of the appointing
9 authority to reject such matter, a petition for a referendum thereon,
10 signed by not less than ten per cent of the electors of such
11 municipality, as determined by the last-completed registry list thereof,
12 and filed and certified in accordance with the provisions of section

13 7-188, may be presented to the appointing authority. Not later than
14 thirty days after approval by the appointing authority or the
15 certification of such a petition [,] (1) the proposed charter [, charter
16 amendments or home rule ordinance amendments] shall be published
17 in full at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the
18 municipality, or (2) the portion of the charter or home rule ordinance
19 being amended shall be published at least once in a newspaper having
20 a general circulation in the municipality with a notice that a complete
21 copy of the charter or home rule ordinance and amendment is
22 available in the town clerk's office and that a copy shall be mailed to
23 any person who requests a copy. The town clerk shall mail or
24 otherwise provide such copy to any person who requests a copy.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
All Municipalities	Savings	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Explanation

This bill requires towns to publish in a newspaper only the proposed charter or home rule ordinance amendment before the vote on it. Under current law, municipalities are required to publish the complete charter or home rule ordinance. This bill may result in a minimal savings to municipalities as they may be charged a lesser rate for publishing a smaller notice in the newspaper.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6619

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires that towns publish in a newspaper only the amended part of a charter or home rule ordinance, rather than the complete charter, before the vote on it. The notice must indicate that a complete copy is available in the town clerk's office or by mail on request. Current law requires a town to publish a charter or home rule ordinance as amended in full at least once in a newspaper with general circulation in the town. The bill requires the same publication but only for that portion of the charter or ordinance being amended. The town clerk must mail or otherwise provide a copy of the complete charter, home rule ordinance, and amendment to anyone who asks for it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

BACKGROUND***Charter Amendment***

After a charter revision commission completes its work and the appointing authority approves its proposal (or a petition for a referendum signed by at least 10% of the town's registered voters is certified), voters must approve or reject the charter or home rule ordinance amendments at a referendum held at either a regular or special election.

Related Bill

The Planning and Development Committee favorably reported SB 42 (File 281), which allows municipalities to adopt amendments to a charter rather than amending the entire charter.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 16 Nay 0