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*Testimony by Representative William Hamzy  
Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee  
On House Bill 5214  
March 23, 2009*

Good morning Chairs Slossberg, Spallone, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hetherington and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I would like to thank the committee for raising House Bill 5214, AN ACT CONCERNING POSTING LEGAL NOTICES ON THE WEB SITE OF A MUNICIPALITY.

I do not have to reiterate to this committee about the budget crisis we are in. Much like state government, our municipalities are feeling the burden of trying to stay afloat while continuing to offer their citizens core municipal services and looking for ways to eliminate looming deficits. If we as state legislators can relieve some of the pressure for our municipalities, then we should do so. House Bill 5214 does just that; it allows the advertisement of legal notice to be posted in a conspicuous spot on the town, city or borough's web site. This is a small step toward cutting away at some of the costly mandates that are burdening our cities and towns.

This bill allows municipalities to use a means they already have, websites, to get their information out. As we know, fewer people are going to the newspapers to find information. Allowing municipalities to post legal notices on the internet is a simple way of reaching a large number of people quickly and is less expensive. Web sites have the additional benefit of being available at all times, as opposed to newspapers which get thrown away if residents even get the newspaper at all.

House Bill 5214 is a smart, cost saving move in the right direction. Relieving municipalities of mandates, even if they are small, will help them to concentrate on the larger picture of trying to balance their budgets.

Thank you for raising House Bill 5214 and allowing me to testify on the matter. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them at this time.