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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1112

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES BY MUNICIPALITIES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill allows municipalities, municipal entities, and state and municipal agencies to shorten the length of various legal notices they publish in local newspapers, as long as they (1) publish specific information in the notices and (2) comply with existing procedural requirements regarding these notices.

The bill also requires newspapers that publish legal notices for municipalities to include in their indexes the pages on which the notices are printed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

#### **BRIEF LEGAL NOTICES**

##### ***Legal Notices That May Be Shortened***

The bill allows towns, cities, boroughs, districts, boards, commissions, and agencies to shorten the length of the legal notices described in Table 1. Entities that do so must comply with the law's existing timing and frequency requirements for the various notices.

**Table 1: Brief Legal Notices**

<b><i>Citation</i></b>	<b><i>Documents</i></b>
7-3	Warnings of town meeting, notices of meetings of other municipalities, school districts, public communities, and ecclesiastical societies
7-9c	Notice by municipal clerk of date and hours of referenda
7-85	Notice by town treasurer calling in town orders for payment
7-131j	Notice by the state of the time and place of a public hearing on taking of land by the state or any public service company
7-131n	Notice by municipality of a public hearing on the taking of land previously purchased for recreational or open space purposes
7-139	Notice by city or borough of an assessment for public works and improvements
7-147b	Notice of public hearing on the establishment of a proposed historic district

7-147q	Notice of public hearing on the designation of an historic property
7-163e	Notice by municipality of a public hearing on the sale, lease, or transfer of municipally-owned real property
7-191	Proposed charters or charter or home rule ordinance amendments
7-222	Notice by municipal gas or electric utility of a rate change
7-247a	Notice by municipal water pollution control authority (WPCA) of a proposed sewer system acquisition or construction
7-250	Notice by WPCA of sewer benefit assessments and related public hearings
7-252	Notice by WPCA of assessment due date
7-255	Notice by WPCA of sewer connection charges or usage rates and related public hearings
7-263a	Notice by WPCA of a proposed bond issuance to finance a sewer system project and related public hearings
7-273f	Transit district budgets
7-273g	Notice by a transit district of a proposed resolution to authorize bonds and related public hearings
7-325	Notice of a meeting to establish a special taxing district or change an existing district's boundaries
7-327	Notice of special taxing district annual and special meetings
7-344	Town budget reports
7-485	Notice by a municipality of a resolution authorizing it to perform certain economic development activities and the referendum to approve it
7-492	Municipal resolution authorizing bonds secured by a special capital reserve fund under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act
7-601	Notices of neighborhood revitalization planning committees regarding the adoption of bylaws, and amendments thereto, proposed strategic plans, and related public hearings
8-2j	Notice of zoning commission decisions on applications for construction within a village district
8-3	Notices of zoning commissions regarding regulations, maps, certificates of conformity with zoning regulations, and site plan decisions
8-3c	Notices of zoning commission decisions on special permits, special exceptions, and special exemptions
8-7	Notices of zoning appeals and zoning board of appeals decisions
8-7d	Notice by land use boards of public hearings
8-23	Notices by planning commissions regarding plans of conservation and development and related public hearings
8-26e	Notice of planning commission decisions on special permits and special exceptions
8-28	Notice of other planning commission decisions and actions
8-29	Notices by planning commissions regarding the filing of surveys, maps, or plans, and related public hearings
8-35a	Notice by regional planning agencies of public hearings on regional plans of conservation and development
8-44	Notice by public housing authorities of public hearing on sites for proposed housing projects
8-127	Notices by redevelopment agencies regarding redevelopment plans and related public hearings
8-127a & 8-129	Notices by redevelopment agencies regarding the acquisition of real property by eminent domain and related public hearings
8-169d	Notice of public hearing for proposed community development plan
8-169s	Notice by an urban homesteading agency of available property
8-169v	Notice by an urban homesteading agency of its acquisition of real property from the federal government
8-189 & 8-191	Notices by a development agency regarding development plans
8-294	Notice by an urban rehabilitation agency of available property

**Required Content**

The bill requires the brief legal notices to include:

1. a description of the notice's subject matter;
2. the website at which additional information is available;
3. the town clerk's address and office hours, where additional information on the notice must be available for public inspection; and
4. a telephone number for requesting a copy of the additional information free of charge.

The bill also requires notices on certain subjects to include additional information. The notices must include the:

1. date, time, and location of meetings or public hearings;
2. hours during which polls will be open for referenda or elections;
3. property's address and description for notices concerning real property; and
4. application decision for notices concerning applications.

**BACKGROUND****Related Bill**

SB 902, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, (1) allows municipalities and political subdivisions to list descriptions of legal notices in a newspaper instead of the full notice itself, (2) requires the full notice to appear on the municipality or subdivision's website, and (3) specifies that newspapers include weekly newspapers distributed to town residents free of charge.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 3 (03/22/2013)