



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 485

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 902

Senate, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.

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 Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2013*):

3 Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter
4 of any town, city or borough which requires the insertion of an
5 advertisement of a legal notice in a daily newspaper shall be construed
6 to permit such advertisement to be inserted in a weekly or daily
7 newspaper, including, but not limited to, a weekly newspaper
8 distributed free of charge to the residents of the town; but this section
9 shall not be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the time required
10 by law for giving such notice. For any such requirement for the
11 insertion of an advertisement of a legal notice by a town, city or
12 borough, a description of such advertisement containing a brief
13 summary of the matter being noticed and a reference to the town's,

14 city's or borough's Internet web site for additional information may be
 15 published in lieu of the full legal notice. Such additional information,
 16 including, but not limited to, any information otherwise required to be
 17 published in such legal notice, shall be posted in a conspicuous place
 18 on such web site. Whenever notice of any action or other proceeding is
 19 required to be given by publication in a newspaper, either by statute or
 20 order of court, the newspaper selected for that purpose, unless
 21 otherwise expressly prescribed, shall be one having a substantial
 22 circulation in the town in which at least one of the parties, for whose
 23 benefit such notice is given, resides.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	1-2

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1, "such requirement" was substituted for "requirement" for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 14 \$	FY 15 \$
All Municipalities	Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill reduces the amount of information municipalities are required to include in legal notices posted in newspapers.

There is a savings, anticipated to be minimal, associated with the bill's provisions concerning the posting of smaller notices. The extent of the savings depends on the way in which a newspaper factors the size of a legal notice into its price structure.

As an example, in FY 12, the City of Bridgeport spent approximately \$150,000 on posting of legal notices; the Town of Southbury spent approximately \$16,500.

The Out Years

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

Sources: *City of Bridgeport*
Town of Southbury

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 902*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows municipalities and boroughs, whenever they are required by the law or a charter to advertise a legal notice in a newspaper, to instead advertise a brief description of the matter being noticed. The municipality or borough must publish the full notice in a conspicuous place on its website, and a reference to the website must be included in the brief description published in the newspaper.

By law, legal notices required to be published in a newspaper must appear in a daily or weekly newspaper that has a substantial circulation in the municipality in which at least one of the parties, for whose benefit the notice is given, resides. The bill specifies that these legal notices may be published in a weekly newspaper that is distributed to town residents free of charge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

sSB 1112, reported favorably by the Planning and Development Committee, makes a similar change for certain legal notices specified in the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/27/2013)