
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 40

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

SUMMARY:

This bill allows municipalities, whenever they are required to publish a legal notice in a newspaper, to publish a brief description of the matter being noticed and reference the newspaper's website where the full notice is published, provided the website is free to access. Newspapers must place full legal notices in a conspicuous location on their websites.

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 where at least one of the parties, for whose benefit the notice is given, lives. The bill specifies that these legal notices may be published in a free weekly newspaper that is distributed to municipal residents.

The bill also eliminates a Freedom of Information Act exemption for municipal agencies, which will require them to post public meeting minutes on their websites, if they maintain one. As for state agencies, the posting requirement applies only to minutes that must be publicly disclosed (i.e., not executive session minutes).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5580, favorably reported by the Planning and Development Committee, allows municipalities required to publish a legal notice before holding a public hearing on the sale, lease, or transfer of their real property to place the notice (1) in a weekly print publication

having general circulation in the municipality or (2) on the municipality's Internet website.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 2 (03/25/2014)