



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 399

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6556

House of Representatives, April 4, 2023

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. KAVROS DEGRAW of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ONLINE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

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 Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2023*):

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 newspaper or,
7 if such provision applies to a town, city or borough, posted in a
8 conspicuous place on the Internet web site of the town, city or borough,
9 provided that any such notice posted on an Internet web site shall
10 include the date and time that such notice was posted; but this section
11 shall not be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the time required by
12 law for giving such notice. Whenever notice of any action or other
13 proceeding is required to be given by publication in a newspaper, either

14 by statute or order of court, the newspaper selected for that purpose,
15 unless otherwise expressly prescribed, shall be one having a substantial
16 circulation in the town in which at least one of the parties, for whose
17 benefit such notice is given, resides.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-----|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 1-2 |

PD *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 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| All Municipalities | Savings | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill results in a savings to municipalities beginning in FY 24 by allowing municipalities to advertise a legal notice on their website instead of in a newspaper. Each legal notice advertised in a newspaper can result in a cost of several hundred dollars to the municipality. The extent of the savings to a municipality is dependent on the number of legal notices and the per-notice cost.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the cost of publishing legal notices in the newspaper.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6556

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ONLINE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

SUMMARY

The bill allows towns, cities, and boroughs, whenever they are required by the law or a charter to advertise a legal notice in a newspaper, to instead post the notice conspicuously on their websites. If posted online, the notice must indicate the date and time it was posted. The bill does not change existing law's requirements on the frequency or duration of notices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 7 (03/17/2023)