

SB1003 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

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Testimony for Senate Bill 1003
Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General
Circulation – Online Newspapers
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 24, 2022

Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 1003: Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation – Online Newspapers.**

Senate Bill 1003 is a request from Dorchester County and is a response to the evolving landscape of print media. Dorchester County currently has only two news publications that qualify under section 1-113 of the General Provisions Article as a “newspaper of general circulation.” In recent years, these papers have limited their print publications to only certain days of the week. If this trend were to continue, there are concerns that County may be unable to utilize either newspaper to publish legal notices.

Senate Bill 1003 alters the definition of “newspaper in general circulation” to include a publication “that is offered either in a print formation or through a dedicated website.” This bill will allow counties to meet the legal notice requirement, without delays due to limited publications or, lack thereof, of print newspapers.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 1003.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

SB 1003_FAV_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 24, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill: SB 1003 – Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation – Online Newspapers

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 1003, which allows a local government to utilize either a newspaper of general circulation or a dedicated website to satisfy a requirement to publish legal notice.

Incorporated municipalities throughout the state expend thousands of dollars each year on newspaper advertisements to post legal notices pertaining to an annexation, a charter amendment, a new or amended comprehensive master plan, or a new or amended zoning regulation. As newspaper circulation continues to decline significantly each year and internet usage increases, it is important that a more technologically efficient manner to publicize municipal and county legal notices be adopted so that citizens impacted by these actions are kept fully informed.

SB 1003 would provide enabling authority to implement a cost-effective alternative to newspaper publication that would both expand the notification coverage and meet legal notification requirements of state law.

The Maryland Municipal League therefore supports SB 1003 and respectfully requests that this committee provide the bill with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SB 1003 -MDDC Press OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Snyder

Position: UNF



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To: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 24, 2022

Re: **SB 1003 - OPPOSE**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to online-only publications such as MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew to hometown newspapers such as The Star Democrat and the Dorchester Banner.

The Press Association is opposed to Senate Bill 1003, which seeks to change the definition of “newspaper of general circulation” to include online-only publications **across the state**. This is an extraordinarily broad solution to a problem that does not exist.

The Dorchester County government has two stable and consistent publications in which to place its public notices: The Dorchester Banner and the Star Democrat. The Dorchester Banner is a weekly publication in print and the Star Democrat publishes four days each week. Every jurisdiction in Maryland has a print publication. We believe there is no need to change a definition that is used throughout the entire Maryland Code and this change may have consequences that reach far beyond this potential problem.

If public notices are placed in online publications alone, we have concerns about how those publications may be archived and proof of distribution and publication.

We recommend an unfavorable report.



We believe a strong news media is central to a strong and open society.

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