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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**HB0594 Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or
Newspaper in General Circulation – Digital Newspapers**

HGO Committee

February 13th, 2024

Why We Need This Bill

This bill increases access to legal information for Dorchester County Citizens as digital media becomes more prevalent.

Dorchester County is required to print any changes made to laws or charters promptly in a “newspaper of general circulation”. Currently only two publications in Dorchester County qualify; *The Star Democrat*, which has physical copies only Wednesday through Friday, and *The Dorchester Banner*, which only publishes and distributes a physical copy on Wednesdays.

Annotate Code, General Provisions Section 1-113 which does not currently account for digital news outlets.

We need this bill should local publications move to a digital format entirely they will no longer qualify as “newspapers of general circulation” and therefore not be able to print legal advertisements that the County needs to inform citizens of.

What Does This Bill Do

HB594 would expand the definition of a “newspaper of general circulation” to include online and digital publications to allow for the publication requirements of legal advertisements and legal notices to be met by local publications.

The Dorchester County Delegation respectfully asks the Committee for a FAVORABLE vote on HB0594.

