

HOUSE BILL 594

L2
HB 1273/23 – HRU

4lr0959
CF SB 811

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice in Dorchester County – Publication in**
3 **Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation – Digital Newspapers**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~altering the meaning of “newspaper” or “newspaper in general~~
5 ~~circulation” when referring to the publication of a certain legal advertisement or~~
6 ~~legal notice to include certain publications that are offered in a print format or a~~
7 ~~digital format under certain circumstances;~~ establishing certain requirements for
8 the publication of certain notices in Dorchester County; and generally relating to the
9 publication of legal advertisements and legal notices in Dorchester County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 1–113
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – General Provisions**

18 1–113.

19 (a) Unless otherwise provided, in a law, resolution, or court order, judgment, or
20 decree that refers to publishing a legal advertisement or legal notice, words such as

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” mean a publication ~~THAT IS OFFERED~~
 2 ~~EITHER IN A PRINT FORMAT OR A DIGITAL FORMAT~~ that:

3 (1) ~~¶~~ has at least four pages;

4 (2) ~~¶~~ habitually contains news items, reports of current events, editorial
 5 comments, advertising matter, and other miscellaneous information that is of public
 6 interest and is found generally in an ordinary newspaper;

7 ~~¶(3) (2)~~ has been published and distributed ~~THROUGH THE PRINT OR~~
 8 ~~DIGITAL FORMAT~~, by sale, from an established place of business at least once a week for
 9 6 months or more before publication of the advertisement or notice;

10 ~~¶(4) (3)~~ has general circulation throughout the community where the
 11 publication is published; and

12 ~~¶(5) (4)~~ ~~IF OFFERED IN A PRINT FORMAT:~~

13 ~~(1) HAS AT LEAST FOUR PAGES; AND~~

14 ~~(H) (5)~~ qualifies for Periodicals rates for mailing through the
 15 United States Postal Service.

16 (b) Subject to subsection (a) of this section and for purposes of the public general
 17 laws of the State, in Prince George’s County, “newspaper in general circulation” includes a
 18 newspaper that:

19 (1) is designated by the County Council as a newspaper of record; or

20 (2) (i) qualifies under subsection (a) of this section with respect to
 21 Prince George’s County; and

22 (ii) is published by a small business as defined in § 14–201 of the
 23 State Finance and Procurement Article.

24 **(C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND FOR PURPOSES OF**
 25 **THE PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS OF THE STATE, IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, IF A LAW,**
 26 **RESOLUTION, OR COURT ORDER, JUDGMENT, OR DECREE REQUIRES THE COUNTY**
 27 **TO PUBLISH A LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE:**

28 **(1) ANY REQUIRED ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE SHALL BE**
 29 **PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PRINT AND DIGITAL FORMAT;**

1 **(2) THE TIME PERIOD REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION STARTS ONCE**
2 **THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE APPEARS IN PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT;**
3 **AND**

4 **(3) IF THERE IS NO PRINT AND DIGITAL PUBLICATION THAT MEETS**
5 **ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE**
6 **ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE MAY BE PLACED IN ANY DIGITAL PUBLICATION THAT**
7 **CAN BE ACCESSED IN DORCHESTER COUNTY AND THAT REGULARLY CONTAINS**
8 **LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.