

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 1258  
Judiciary

(Delegate Embry)

Judicial Proceedings

---

Estates and Trusts - Estate Administration - Publication of Notice

---

This bill requires the register of wills of each county and Baltimore City to coordinate to establish and maintain a centralized website for use by all registers of wills to publish notice as required under the Estates and Trusts Article. The bill also requires publication of specified notices on the centralized website, instead of publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the appropriate county (or counties); specifically, notices of (1) appointment of a personal representative of an estate; (2) judicial probate of an estate; (3) appointment of a foreign personal representative and estate information; and (4) a meeting for distribution of the net estate by the court.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Registers of Wills*

In general, the registers of wills in each of the State's 24 jurisdictions are responsible for the administration of estates by providing proper forms and direction, assisting and advising any person who requests assistance in the preparation of any form for

administrative probate, admitting wills to probate and issuing letters of administration, auditing accounts, and maintaining accurate records of all estate matters. The registers also serve as clerks of the orphans' courts.

### *Published Newspaper Notices*

The register of wills, foreign personal representative, or personal representative must publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the appropriate county (or counties) specified notices as follows:

- *Register of Wills* – the register of wills must publish notice (1) once a week in three successive weeks, announcing the appointment of a personal representative, and notifying creditors of the estate to present their claims, and (2) once a week for two successive weeks, that a petition for judicial probate has been filed in the orphans' court;
- *Foreign Personal Representative* – a foreign personal representative must publish notice once a week for three successive weeks, announcing the appointment of the foreign personal representative, and other estate information; and
- *Personal Representative* – a personal representative must publish notice once a week in three successive weeks, of a meeting for distribution of the net estate by the court.

---

## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Register of Wills; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2024  
rh/sdk Third Reader - March 14, 2024

---

Analysis by: Joanne E. Tetlow

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510