

# HOUSE BILL 311

D3

8lr1766

---

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Newspaper**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of certain terms concerning publishing a  
4 legal advertisement or legal notice to repeal requirements that a “newspaper” or  
5 similar publication containing the legal advertisement or legal notice be  
6 distributed by sale and be eligible to be entered as second–class matter in the  
7 United States mail; providing for the application of this Act; and generally  
8 relating to altering certain requirements for certain publications containing a  
9 legal advertisement or legal notice.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation  
12 Section 28(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation**

18 28.

19 (a) In a law, resolution, or court order or decree that refers to publishing a  
20 legal advertisement or legal notice, words such as “paper”, “newspaper”, “newspaper in  
21 general circulation”, or “newspaper devoted to the dissemination of general news”  
22 mean, unless otherwise provided, a publication that:

23 (1) Has at least 4 pages;

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)     Habitually contains news items, reports of current events, editorial  
2 comments, advertising matter, and other miscellaneous information that is of public  
3 interest and is found generally in an ordinary newspaper;

4           (3)     At least once a week for 6 months or more before publication of the  
5 notice or advertisement, has been published and distributed[, by sale,] from an  
6 established place of business; **AND**

7           (4)     Has general circulation throughout the community where the  
8 publication is published[; and

9           (5)     Is entitled to be entered as second-class matter in the United  
10 States mail].

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be  
12 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have  
13 any effect on or application to any legal advertisement or legal notice published before  
14 the effective date of this Act.

15           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2008.