

HOUSE BILL 523

L2

2lr0791

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation –**
3 **Definition**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that, in St. Mary's County, “newspaper” or “newspaper in
5 general circulation” includes a publication that qualifies under certain requirements
6 and that is provided free of charge; and generally relating to a newspaper or
7 newspaper in general circulation in St. Mary's County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – General Provisions
10 Section 1–113
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 1–113.

17 (a) Unless otherwise provided, in a law, resolution, or court order, judgment, or
18 decree that refers to publishing a legal advertisement or legal notice, words such as
19 “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” mean a publication that:

20 (1) has at least four pages;

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) has been published and distributed, by sale, from an established place
2 of business at least once a week for 6 months or more before publication of the
3 advertisement or notice;

4 (4) has general circulation throughout the community where the
5 publication is published; and

6 (5) qualifies for Periodicals rates for mailing through the United States
7 Postal Service.

8 (b) Subject to subsection (a) of this section and for purposes of the public general
9 laws of the State, in Prince George's County, "newspaper in general circulation" includes a
10 newspaper that:

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

12 (2) (i) qualifies under subsection (a) of this section with respect to
13 Prince George's County; and

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

16 **(C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND FOR PURPOSES OF**
17 **THE PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS OF THE STATE AND THE PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF ST.**
18 **MARY'S COUNTY, IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, "NEWSPAPER" OR "NEWSPAPER IN**
19 **GENERAL CIRCULATION" INCLUDES A PUBLICATION THAT:**

20 **(1) QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH**
21 **RESPECT TO ST. MARY'S COUNTY; AND**

22 **(2) IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2022.