

# HOUSE BILL 594

L2  
HB 1273/23 – HRU

4lr0959  
CF 4lr2616

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By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper**  
3 **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; and generally relating to the publication  
8 of legal advertisements and legal notices.

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

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

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 1–113.

18 (a) Unless otherwise provided, in a law, resolution, or court order, judgment, or  
19 decree that refers to publishing a legal advertisement or legal notice, words such as  
20 “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” mean a publication **THAT IS OFFERED**  
21 **EITHER IN A PRINT FORMAT OR A DIGITAL FORMAT** that:

22 (1) [has at least four pages;

23 (2)] habitually contains news items, reports of current events, editorial

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 comments, advertising matter, and other miscellaneous information that is of public  
2 interest and is found generally in an ordinary newspaper;

3           **[(3)] (2)** has been published and distributed **THROUGH THE PRINT OR**  
4 **DIGITAL FORMAT**, by sale, from an established place of business at least once a week for  
5 6 months or more before publication of the advertisement or notice;

6           **[(4)] (3)** has general circulation throughout the community where the  
7 publication is published; and

8           **[(5)] (4)** **IF OFFERED IN A PRINT FORMAT:**

9                           **(I)** **HAS AT LEAST FOUR PAGES; AND**

10                           **(II)** qualifies for Periodicals rates for mailing through the United  
11 States Postal Service.

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

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

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

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

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