

# HOUSE BILL 10

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0648  
CF SB 64

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By: **Delegate Foley**

Requested: July 23, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 27, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 establishing certain requirements for the publication of certain  
5 advertisements and notices in counties and municipalities in the State; requiring  
6 certain digital publications to meet certain qualifications before publishing a certain  
7 legal advertisement or legal notice; and generally relating to the publication of legal  
8 advertisements and legal notices in counties and municipalities in the State.

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 2025 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

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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 **PRINT ~~OR~~ AND DIGITAL**  
 2 publication **OR DIGITAL-ONLY PUBLICATION THAT COVERS LOCAL NEWS OR**  
 3 **INFORMATION IN MORE THAN THREE COUNTIES IN THE STATE** that:

4 (1) [has at least four pages;

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

8 [(3)] (2) has been published and distributed, by sale, from an established  
 9 place of business at least once a week for 6 months or more before publication of the  
 10 advertisement or notice;

11 [(4)] (3) has general circulation throughout the community where the  
 12 publication is published; [and

13 (5) (4) **FOR A PRINT PUBLICATION:**

14 (I) qualifies for Periodicals rates for mailing through the United  
 15 States Postal Service; **AND**

16 (II) **HAS AT LEAST FOUR PAGES; AND**

17 (5) **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, FOR A DIGITAL**  
 18 **PUBLICATION:**

19 (I) **EMPLOYS OR RETAINS ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO CREATE,**  
 20 **EDIT, PRODUCE, AND DISTRIBUTE ORIGINAL CONTENT CONCERNING MATTERS OF**  
 21 **PUBLIC INTEREST THROUGH REPORTING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CONDUCTING**  
 22 **INTERVIEWS, OBSERVING CURRENT EVENTS, AND REVIEWING DOCUMENTS OR**  
 23 **OTHER INFORMATION;**

24 (II) **EMPLOYS AT LEAST ONE INDIVIDUAL FULL TIME, WORKING**  
 25 **AT LEAST 30 HOURS PER WEEK, WHO:**

26 1. **RESIDES WITHIN 50 MILES OF THE COUNTY OR**  
 27 **MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WHERE THE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE**  
 28 **IS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED; AND**

29 2. **GATHERS, PREPARES, COLLECTS, PHOTOGRAPHS,**  
 30 **WRITES, EDITS, REPORTS, OR PUBLISHES ORIGINAL LOCAL OR STATE NEWS FOR**  
 31 **DISTRIBUTION IN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;**

1 (III) PUBLISHES AT LEAST ONE ARTICLE PER WEEK CONCERNING  
2 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
3 DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12 MONTHS; AND

4 (IV) IF DESIGNATED AS A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER §  
5 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE:

6 1. DECLARES IN ITS INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
7 FILINGS THAT ITS MISSION INCLUDES THE COVERAGE OF LOCAL OR STATE NEWS;  
8 AND

9 2. HAS NOT RECEIVED MORE THAN 50% OF ITS GROSS  
10 RECEIPTS DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR FROM:

11 A. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES OR OTHER ENTITIES  
12 DESCRIBED IN § 527 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; OR

13 B. ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE DESIGNATED AS  
14 TAX-EXEMPT UNDER § 501(C)(4), (5), OR (6) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

15 (B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A DIGITAL  
16 PUBLICATION THAT PUBLISHES A LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE  
17 SHALL:

18 (1) MAINTAIN AN ARCHIVE OF ALL PUBLISHED LEGAL  
19 ADVERTISEMENTS AND LEGAL NOTICES THAT SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC;  
20 AND

21 (2) BE ACCESSIBLE IN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
22 THAT IS REQUIRED TO PUBLISH THE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE.

23 (C) FOR PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS OF THE STATE, IF A  
24 LAW, RESOLUTION, COURT ORDER, JUDGMENT, OR DECREE REQUIRES A COUNTY OR  
25 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO PUBLISH A LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT OR LEGAL  
26 NOTICE IN A PRINT OR DIGITAL NEWSPAPER IN GENERAL CIRCULATION, THE TIME  
27 PERIOD REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION BEGINS ON THE DATE THE FIRST  
28 ADVERTISEMENT OR NOTICE APPEARS IN PRINT OR DIGITAL FORMAT.

29 [(b)] (D) Subject to subsection (a) of this section and for purposes of the public  
30 general laws of the State, in Prince George's County, "newspaper in general circulation"  
31 includes a newspaper that:

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

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

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

5 [(c) Subject to subsection (a) of this section and for purposes of the public general  
6 laws of the State, in Dorchester County, if a law, resolution, or court order, judgment, or  
7 decree requires the county to publish a legal advertisement or legal notice:

8 (1) any required advertisement or notice shall be published and distributed  
9 through print and digital format;

10 (2) the time period required for publication starts once the first  
11 advertisement or notice appears in print or digital format; and

12 (3) if there is no print and digital publication that meets all of the  
13 qualifications under subsection (a) of this section, the advertisement or notice may be  
14 placed in any digital publication that can be accessed in Dorchester County and that  
15 regularly contains local news and information for Dorchester County.]

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.