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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
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Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

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Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
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Testimony for Senate Bill 305

Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General
Circulation – Online Newspapers

January 19, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 305: Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice –
Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation – Online Newspapers.

Senate Bill 305 is a request from Dorchester County and is a response to the evolving landscape
of print media. Dorchester County currently has only two news publications that qualify under
section 1-113 of the General Provisions Article as a “newspaper of general circulation.” In recent
years, these papers have limited their print publications to only certain days of the week. If this
trend were to continue, there are concerns that County may be unable to utilize either newspaper
to publish legal notices.

Senate Bill 305 alters the definition of “newspaper in general circulation” to include a
publication “that is offered either in a print formation or through a dedicated website.” This bill
will allow counties to meet the legal notice requirement, without delays due to limited
publications or, lack thereof, of print newspapers.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 305.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt