

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 696

S.P. 233

In Senate, February 10, 2005

### **An Act To Amend the Requirements for Publishing Municipal Legal Notices**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator NASS of York.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3013** is enacted to read:

6 **§3013. Publication policy**

8 Notwithstanding Title 1, section 601, municipal legal  
10 notices may be published in a newspaper medium distributed as  
12 3rd-class postal matter in the United States mails rather than in  
a newspaper of general circulation if the municipal officers have  
adopted a publication policy regarding legal notices that  
contains the following requirements:

14 1. General circulation. The newspaper of general  
16 circulation must have a subscription rate of less than 30% of the  
18 residents of the municipality. The subscription rate is  
20 calculated by dividing the total number of weekday subscriptions  
by the total number of households in the municipality as reported  
by the United States Census Bureau;

22 2. Distribution. The alternative newspaper medium must be  
distributed to all households in the municipality;

24 3. Cost. The alternative newspaper medium is distributed  
26 at no greater cost to the consumer than the newspaper of general  
circulation;

28 4. Municipal record. The municipality retains a record of  
30 all legal notices, legal advertising and other legal matter  
published pursuant to this section; and

32 5. Archives. The publisher of the alternative newspaper  
34 medium has a system of archiving past editions of the newspaper.

36 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill allows municipalities to publish legal notices in  
40 a newspaper medium distributed as 3rd-class mail if the municipal  
42 officers adopt a publication policy. The policy must contain 5  
44 requirements. The newspaper of general circulation must have a  
46 subscription rate of less than 30% of the residents in the  
48 municipality, all households in the municipality must receive the  
alternative newspaper, the alternative newspaper must cost less  
than the newspaper of general circulation, the municipality must  
retain a record of all notices published in the alternative  
newspaper and the publisher of the alternative newspaper must  
have a system of archiving past editions.