



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Assembly Bill 70

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

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City councils, village boards, school districts, and technical college districts are generally required to publish a Class 1 legal notice of all proceedings in a local newspaper. However, a municipality that is not required to have an official newspaper may generally provide notice by posting the notice in three public places, or by placing the notice on its Internet site and in one public place. This exception does not apply to certain proceedings and events, such as tax redemptions and civil annexation, for which newspaper publication is always required.

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 70

2017 Assembly Bill 70 (“the bill”) allows any city council, village board, school district, or technical college district to, in lieu of publication in a newspaper, publish its proceedings by posting a copy on its Internet site and in at least one public place. The proceedings must remain on the Internet site for at least three years.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (“the substitute amendment”) retains the provisions in the bill, and adds the following requirements. If a municipality chooses this option for publication, it must also transmit an electronic copy of the proceedings to the official newspaper, or if there is no official newspaper to a newspaper likely to give notice. The substitute amendment also requires a municipality to do all of the following before it discontinues its newspaper publications: (1) provide 180 days’ notice to the newspaper; (2) publish two separate notices in the newspaper indicating that it will discontinue publishing there; and (3) establish an electronic notification service, which provides notification each time proceedings are posted to at least as many interested individuals and organizations as the newspaper’s bona fide paid circulation.

BILL HISTORY

On November 8, 2017, Representatives Thiesfeldt and Steffen offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1. On November 9, 2017, the Assembly Committee on Local Government recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes 7; Noes 1. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes 5; Noes 3.

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