

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DOR 2/4/2005

LRB Number	05-0987/2	Introduction Number	AB-35	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Qualifications of newspapers permitted to publish legal notices and allowing mailing and internet posting of legal notices instead of publishing					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, to be eligible to receive a compensation for publishing legal notices, a newspaper must:

- Be published regularly and continuously in the municipality for at least two of the last five years.
- Have at least half of its circulation as paid circulation.
- Have subscribers of at least 1,000 copies for 1st or 2nd class cities, or 300 copies for all other municipalities.

Under the bill, a newspaper would also be eligible if it has been in existence for two years and is delivered, without requiring a subscription fee, to 80% of the households and businesses in the newspaper's coverage area. Free newspapers would not be required to publish news.

In addition, under the bill, municipalities, except 1st class cities, would be allowed to designate their own official newspaper for publishing legal notices. A newspaper would have to:

- Be published at least weekly.
- As determined after a public meeting, give a better notice to more people affected by a notice than a newspaper that meets the other statutory requirements.

Also under the bill, municipalities would be allowed to mail a public notice to each person affected instead of publishing the notice in a newspaper.

Finally, under the bill, municipalities, if they adopted a corresponding ordinance, would be allowed to post a public notice on the Internet instead of publishing the notice in a newspaper.

Data on numbers or costs of public notices are not available. To the extent that the additional means of disseminating notices provided under the bill are less costly than publishing notices under current law, local government costs would decrease.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications