



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 228
[2011 Assembly Bill 548]

Publication of Legal Notices

2011 Wisconsin Act 228 pertains to the typeface (font) used and rates charged for publication of legal notices in newspapers. Prior to Act 228, the standard typeface for legal notices was 6-point Spartan lightface, but a publisher could opt to use a different typeface. Publication fees for legal notices varied depending on the typeface used and whether the notice was being published for the first time or for a second or subsequent time. The minimum fee for publishing a legal notice was \$2 and the maximum was not more than 14 cents per standard line for the first insertion and not more than 11 cents per standard line for each subsequent insertion. The Department of Administration (DOA) was required to adjust the specified maximum rates every two years.

Under Act 228, all legal notices must be published in Arial typeface, with the standard line using an Arial 6-point typeface. The minimum fee amount is eliminated. Rather than specifying maximum amounts, the Act provides that the fee shall be at the rate issued by DOA for the first and subsequent insertions per standard line. The Act requires DOA to review the standard line rate annually, with any adjustment effective on January 1 of each year.

Further, Act 228 requires that a newspaper that publishes a legal notice must also place an electronic copy of the notice, at no additional charge, on the Wisconsin newspapers legal notice website, which is to be created for that purpose.

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Prepared by: Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.