

SENATE BILL 1909

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1 and Title 8, Chapter 21, relative to public and legal notices.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that the purpose of the publication of legal notices allowed or required by state law is to ensure the widest possible dissemination and publicity for the matter that is the subject of the legal notice; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly believes that with the advent of the computer age and the broad availability and access of the Internet to Tennessee citizens legal notices that are published on the state of Tennessee or a local government's publicly available Internet web site will give such notices a wide dissemination to the public; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 21, Part 13, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) A state or local governmental entity responsible for publishing a legal notice of any kind allowed or required by law may elect to publish such notice on that entity's publicly available web site in lieu of other publication methods. This electronic option for publication shall be in addition to any other method of publication authorized by law.

(b) An electronically published legal notice shall have the same legal effect as a legal notice that is published in a newspaper and shall be published in the same manner and for the same time period as a legal notice published in a newspaper. All electronically posted legal notices shall be indexed in such a way that the general public is able to easily find a particular legal notice by subject.

(c) The governmental entity responsible for procuring publication of any legal notice that is published under this section shall make known where these legal notices are published, by placing the information on the governmental entity's web site and prominently displaying this information at all of the governmental entity's offices that publish legal notices.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.