



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2070/1
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2015 SENATE BILL 137

April 23, 2015 - Introduced by Senators MARKLEIN, OLSEN, BEWLEY, NASS and HARSDORF, cosponsored by Representatives SPIROS, BERNIER, JARCHOW, JACQUE, KULP, BOWEN, STUCK, KITCHENS, HORLACHER, TITTL, DOYLE, KNODL, T. LARSON, WEATHERSTON, KERKMAN, RIPP, KREMER, MURTHA, KAPENGA, MURPHY and QUINN. Referred to Committee on Elections and Local Government.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 985.01 (7), 985.02 (2) (a), 985.02 (2) (b), 985.02 (2) (c), 985.02
2 (3) and 985.08 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** publication of certain legal
3 notices on an Internet site maintained by a municipality.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, certain legal notices are required by statute or by an order of a court to be published. Legal notices are generally published in a newspaper likely to give notice in the area or to the persons affected. Current law also allows certain municipalities to opt to post certain legal notices in lieu of publishing the notices in a newspaper, if the municipality meets statutory requirements regarding timing and placement of the notices.

Under current law, the municipality must post the notice in at least three public places likely to give notice to persons affected, and must post a notice that would be published before the act or event requiring notice no later than the time specified for the first newspaper publication or, if the notice would be published after the act or event requiring notice, must post the notice within one week after the act or event.

Under this bill, a municipality that opts to post a legal notice in lieu of publication may, instead of posting the notice in three public places, post the notice in one public place and publish the notice on the municipality's Internet site.

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For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 985.01 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 985.01 (7) “Wisconsin newspapers legal notices ~~Web~~ Internet site” means an
3 Internet ~~Web~~ site maintained by Wisconsin newspapers for the purpose of providing
4 and maintaining an electronic version of printed and published legal notices.

5 **SECTION 2.** 985.02 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 985.02 (2) (a) The notice must be posted in at least 3 public places likely to give
7 notice to persons affected or must be posted in at least one public place likely to give
8 notice to persons affected and placed electronically on an Internet site maintained
9 by the municipality.

10 **SECTION 3.** 985.02 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 985.02 (2) (b) The notice posted before the act or event requiring notice shall
12 be posted and, if applicable, placed electronically, no later than the time specified for
13 the first newspaper publication.

14 **SECTION 4.** 985.02 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 985.02 (2) (c) The notice posted after the act or event requiring notice shall be
16 posted and, if applicable, placed electronically, within one week after the act or event.
17 Actions of governing bodies posted after the act or event shall be effective upon
18 posting.

19 **SECTION 5.** 985.02 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

