



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

7700 EAST FIRST PLACE DENVER, COLORADO 80230
 303-364-7700 FAX: 303-364-7800

2021 State Legislation Related to Online Legal Notices

As of August 2021

Summary: Legislation has been introduced in at least 18 states in 2021. Delaware, Florida and Wisconsin enacted legislation.

Bill	Summary	Status
CONNECTICUT		
CT H 5161 (2021)	Authorizes municipalities to post legal notices on municipal Internet web sites in lieu of publication in newspapers.	Failed
CT H 6288 (2021)	Concerns the publication of municipal legal notices, authorizes municipalities to post legal notices on municipal Internet web sites in lieu of publication in newspapers.	Failed
CT S 698 (2021)	Concerns the online publication of legal notices by municipalities, permits the posting of advertisements of legal notices on municipal Internet web sites.	Failed
DELAWARE		
DE S 91 (2021)	Leverages technological advances to allow Family Court the flexibility to permit litigants to publish through a legal notices website established by the Court.	Enacted
FLORIDA		
FL H 35 (2021)	Relates to legal notices, provides for website publication of legal notices, provides criteria for such publication, authorizes fiscally constrained county to use publicly accessible website to publish legally required advertisements and public notices, requires government agency to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices.	Enacted
FL S 402 (2021)	Relates to publication requirements for legal notices; requiring the Florida Press Association to seek to ensure equitable access for minority populations to legal notices posted on the statewide legal notice website; authorizing a governmental agency to choose between print publication or Internet-only publication of specified governmental agency notices with specified newspapers if certain conditions are met; authorizing a newspaper to charge for Internet-only publication of governmental agency notices, subject to specified limitations, etc.	Failed
ILLINOIS		
IL H 1407 (2021)	Amends the Newspaper Legal Notice Act, makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title.	Pending
INDIANA		
IN H 1498 (2021)	Relates to publication of local government notices, allows a political subdivision to publish legal notices on a legal notice web site instead of in a newspaper, establishes requirements regarding availability and accessibility of	Failed

	a legal notice web site, requires a political subdivision to designate an official responsible for the electronic publication of legal notices, if the political subdivision publishes legal notices electronically.	
KANSAS		
KS H 2205 (2021)	Authorizes publication of legal notices by a city, county, school district or other board or entity on a designated official website.	Pending - Carryover
MASSACHUSETTS		
MA H 2197 (2021)	Relates to legal notices required to be published in newspapers by cities and towns.	Pending
MARYLAND		
MD S 305 (2021)	Relates to legal advertisement or legal notice.	Failed - Adjourned
MISSOURI		
MO S 408 (2021)	Modifies legal notice requirements relating to unclaimed property.	Failed - Adjourned
MO S 433 (2021)	Modifies and creates new provisions governing legal notices.	Failed - Adjourned
MONTANA		
MT SJR 23 (2021)	Concerns the interim study on allowing public notice via certain electronic publications, relates to cities and towns, relates to communications, relates to counties, relates to documents, relates to interim studies legislature, relates to local government, relates to public contracts, relates to public officers and employees, relates to state government.	Adopted
NORTH CAROLINA		
NC S 281 (2021)	Restores fair treatment for journalism in Guilford County by repealing a pilot program authorizing Guilford County and municipalities located wholly or partly in Guilford County to publish required notices electronically, authorizes Guilford County to publish legal notices via a county-maintained website for a fee.	Pending
NEW JERSEY		
NJ S 451 (2020)	Relates to Electronic Publication of Legal Notices Act, permits publication of legal notices by government agencies and persons on official government notice websites instead of newspapers.	Pending
NEW YORK		
NY A 1805 (2021)	Relates to publication of legal notices on the official Westchester county website.	Pending
OKLAHOMA		
OK S 254 (2021)	Relates to publication of legal notices, relate to county commissioners and publication of proceedings, modifies certain publication requirement, relate to newspapers and public notices and notices of public bodies, modifies definition, requires publication of certain notices on certain websites, relates to public printing, establishes maximum rate to be charged for certain posting.	Pending - Carryover
RHODE ISLAND		
RI H 6375 (2021)	Allows the publication of legal notices on the state's official website, which would satisfy the requirements for the publication of any statutorily-required notice, advertisement, or other written matter in a newspaper.	Pending
RI S 916 (2021)	Allows the publication of legal notices on the state's official website, which would satisfy the requirements for the publication of any statutorily-required notice, advertisement, or other written matter in a newspaper, provides that	Pending

	this act would take effect upon passage, provided that the official website would become operative on a certain date.	
VIRGINIA		
VA H 588 (2020)	Relates to legal notices, relates to online publications, provides that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement may instead be published in an online publication, specifies the requirements for such online publication.	Failed
VA H 712 (2020)	Relates to legal notices, relates to online publications, provides that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement instead may be published in an online publication, subject to certain requirements specified in the bill.	Failed - Adjourned
WISCONSIN		
WI A 47 (2021)	Concerns qualification of newspapers to receive compensation for publication of legal notices and requirements relating to publication.	Pending
WI S 51 (2021)	Concerns qualification of newspapers to receive compensation for publication of legal notices and requirements relating to publication. The newspaper that publishes a legal notice shall, in addition to newspaper publication, place an electronic copy of the legal notice at no additional charge on the publishing newspaper's Internet site and on the Wisconsin newspapers legal notices Internet site. Every newspaper that publishes legal notices shall have an Internet site and include on its home page a prominent link to the newspaper's legal notices section, the contents of which shall be available for viewing at no cost to the public. The newspaper's Internet legal notice section shall include a link to the Wisconsin newspapers legal notices Internet site, as defined in s. 985.01 (7).	Enacted
WEST VIRGINIA		
WV SCR 57 (2021)	Requests study on electronic database publication of legal notices in lieu of newspaper publication.	Failed - Adjourned

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2020 State Legislation Related to Online Legal Notices
(End of year summary)

Summary: Legislation has been introduced in at least 18 states in 2020.

State/Bill	Summary	Status
Alabama		
H 128	Relates to public notices, provides for electronic publication of public notices on a public notice website operated by the Secretary of State, provides for fees for publication, allows counties and municipalities to opt out under certain conditions, provides for delivery of public notices to the Secretary of State for publication on the public notice website.	Failed - Adjourned
Florida		
H 7	Relates to legal notices, provides for the publication of legal notices on certain publicly accessible websites, conforms provisions to changes made by the act, allows a governmental agency to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website under certain circumstances, provides criteria for website publication, revises provisions relating to the use of court docket funds.	Failed
S 1340	Provides for the publication of legal notices on certain publicly accessible websites, allows a governmental agency to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website under certain circumstances.	Failed
Georgia		
S 406	Relates to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, provides an additional manner of publishing certain legal notices by counties and municipalities.	Failed - Adjourned
Hawaii		
S 2898	Allows government agencies to publish public notices on their official website as an alternative to the newspaper.	Failed - Adjourned
Idaho		
H 439	Adds to existing law to provide for electronic publication of legal notices on government websites.	Failed - Adjourned
Illinois		
H 1327	Amends the Newspaper Legal Notice Act, makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title.	Failed - Adjourned
H 4603	Amends the Notice By Publication Act and the Newspaper Legal Notice Act, provides that if there is no newspaper of general circulation except a newspaper published weekly within the unit of local government or school district, it is sufficient to publish the notice in an adjacent county in a newspaper of general circulation that includes a readership within the unit of local government or school district.	Failed - Adjourned

Kansas		
H 2237	Allows cities and counties to publish legal notices on the internet.	Failed - Adjourned
Maine		
S 146	Removes the requirement that, in order for a newspaper to publish notices, it must be entered as second class postal matter in the United States mail.	Failed
Missouri		
H 1966	Changes the process by which public notice is required to be published.	Failed - Adjourned
Mississippi		
S 2079	Authorizes the publication of legal notice in the county bordering the county where the publication is required.	Failed
S 2606	Authorizes local governmental entities to publish public notices by using a free, publicly accessible, official government website.	Failed
North Carolina		
S 253	Restores fair treatment for journalism in Guilford County, repeals a pilot program authorizing Guilford County and municipalities located wholly or partly in Guilford County to publish required notices electronically, authorizes Guilford County to publish legal notices via the county-maintained web site for a fee.	Failed - Adjourned
New Jersey		
S 451	Relates to Electronic Publication of Legal Notices Act, permits publication of legal notices by government agencies and persons on official government notice websites instead of newspapers.	Pending
New York		
A 1799	Relates to the meaning of the term newspaper for purposes of publishing certain notices required by law.	Failed - Adjourned
A 4486	Amends the generally, relates to publication of legal notices on the official Westchester County website.	Failed - Adjourned
Oklahoma		
H 2857	Relates to publication of legal notices, relates to municipal definitions, modifies definition, relates to newspapers for publication of legal notices, allows for publication on municipality's website.	Failed - Adjourned
South Dakota		
S 179	Revises the legal notice process.	Failed - Adjourned
Tennessee		
H 957	Allows governmental entities to publish notices on their websites in lieu of other methods of publication.	Failed - Adjourned
S 1256	Allows governmental entities to publish notices on their websites in lieu of other methods of publication.	Failed - Adjourned
Virginia		
H 588	Relates to legal notices, relates to online publications, provides that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement may instead be published in an online publication, specifies the requirements for such online publication.	Failed
H 712	Relates to legal notices, relates to online publications, provides that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in	Failed - Adjourned

	a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement instead may be published in an online publication, subject to certain requirements specified in the bill.	
Wisconsin		
A 112	Revises provisions relating to the eligibility of the Island Observer newspaper to receive compensation for the publication of legal notices and the content of affidavits of printing filed as evidence of publication.	Enacted

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2019 State Legislation Related to Online Legal Notices
As of October 2019

Summary: Legislation has been introduced in at least 17 states in 2019.

Bill	Summary	Status
Alabama		
H.B. 576	Relates to public notices; provides for electronic publication of public notices on a public notice website operated by the Secretary of State; provides for fees for publication; allows counties and municipalities to opt out under certain conditions; provides for delivery of public notices to the Secretary of State for publication on the public notice website.	Failed
Connecticut		
H.B. 5230	Allows municipalities to post legal notices on their internet web sites.	Failed
H.B. 6121	Permits the publication of legal notices on municipal internet web sites.	Failed
H.B. 6342	Permits municipalities to post legal notices on their Internet web sites.	Failed
H.B. 6344	Concerns the publication of legal notices on municipal internet web sites, reduces newspaper public notice requirements for municipalities.	Failed
H.B. 6345	Gives towns an alternate means of publishing legal notices.	Failed
H.B. 6565	Permits municipalities to publish legal notices on the Internet.	Failed
H.B. 7208	Authorizes municipalities to publish shorter legal notices in the newspaper if additional information is made available to the public by other means, and to require any newspaper that publishes legal notices for municipalities to indicate in the index of the newspaper the page on which such legal notices may be found.	Failed
S.B. 515	Permits municipalities to publish legal notices on the Internet websites of such municipalities.	Failed
S.B. 553	Concerns the publication of legal notices by municipalities, permits municipalities to publish legal notices on municipal or state Internet web sites.	Failed
Florida		
H.B. 1235	Relates to legal notices; deletes provisions relating to publication of legal notices in newspapers; relates to advertisements when no newspaper is published in a county; relates to Internet website publication of legal notices by newspapers; relates to newspapers in which legal notices and process may be published; provides a definition.	Failed

Bill	Summary	Status
S.B. 1676	Relates to legal notices; deletes provisions relating to publication of legal notices in newspapers; relates to advertisements when no newspaper is published in a county; relates to Internet website publication of legal notices by newspapers; relates to newspapers in which legal notices and process may be published; defines the term publicly accessible website.	Failed
Idaho		
H.B. 166	Amends and adds to existing law to provide for legal notices to be published by a newspaper electronically, with print follow-up, sets rates.	Failed
Illinois		
H.B. 1327	Amends the Newspaper Legal Notice Act, makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title.	Pending
Indiana		
S.B. 435	Relates to publication of local government notices, allows a political subdivision, which includes an agency of a political subdivision, to publish legal notices on a legal notice web site instead of in a newspaper, establishes requirements regarding availability and accessibility of a legal notice web site, requires a political subdivision to designate an official responsible for the electronic publication of legal notices.	Failed
Kansas		
H.B. 2237	Allows cities and counties to publish legal notices on the internet.	Pending - Carryover
Maryland		
H.B. 553	Authorizes a county or municipality to satisfy a requirement to publish legal notices in a newspaper of general circulation by posting the notices on the county's or municipality's website, requires notices posted on a county or municipality website to be conspicuously displayed and to be easily accessible.	Failed
S.B. 324	Authorizes a county or municipality to satisfy a requirement to publish legal notices in a newspaper of general circulation by posting the notices on the county's or municipality's website, requires notices posted on a county or municipality website to be conspicuously displayed and to be easily accessible.	Failed
Maine		
S.B. 146	Removes the requirement that, in order for a newspaper to publish notices, it must be entered as second-class postal matter in the United States mail.	Failed
Missouri		
S.B. 268	Changes the process by which public notice is required to be published.	Failed
North Dakota		
H.B. 1117	Relates to the publication of legal notices in a newspaper and on the newspaper's website.	Enacted
New Jersey		
A.B. 204 (2018-19)	Permits municipality to publish legal notices in newspaper published in another municipality in certain circumstances.	Pending
A.B. 1540 (2018-19)	Eliminates mandatory newspaper publication of legal notices by governments and individuals, permits voluntary publication of legal notices in newspapers or on Internet.	Pending

Bill	Summary	Status
S.B. 1439 (2018-19)	Relates to Electronic Publication of Legal Notices Act, permits publication of legal notices by government agencies and persons on official government notice websites instead of newspapers.	Pending
New Mexico		
S.B. 524	Relates to publication of notice, amends a section pertaining to electronic posting of a state agency's legal notices.	Failed
S.B. 587	Relates to legal notices, requires that legal notices or advertisements be published in a publication that has an audit of circulation.	Failed
New York		
A.B. 4486	Amends the generally, relates to publication of legal notices on the official Westchester County website.	Pending
Texas		
H.B. 1341	Relates to the authority of a district clerk to post official and legal notices by electronic display.	Failed
Utah		
H.B. 69	Amends legal notice publication requirements.	Failed
S.B. 145	Amends legal notice publication requirements, defines average advertisement rate, permits a person to satisfy a part of legal notice publication requirements, in certain circumstances, by serving legal notice directly on all parties to whom legal notice is required, amends restrictions on newspapers in relation to legal notices.	Enacted
Virginia		
H.B. 642 (2018-19)	Relates to legal notices, relates to online publications, provides that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement may instead be published in an online publication, further specifies the requirements for such online publication.	Failed
H.B. 728 (2018-19)	Relates to newspapers, relates to legal notices and publications, relates to requirements, alters the requirements for newspapers that may be used for legal notices and publications by changing the publication and circulation requirement from 24 consecutive weeks to at least 50 of the preceding 52 weeks, provides that requiring that such a newspaper have both a general circulation in, as newly defined in the bill, and news coverage of the area in which such notice is required to be published.	Failed
S.B. 1638 (2018-19)	Relates to newspapers, relates to legal notice and publications, relates to requirements.	Enacted, Chap. 635
Wyoming		
H.B. 242	Relates to publication of legal notices, creates the statewide official notices website, requires publication of legal notices on the official notices website rather than in a newspaper, provides for rulemaking, requires reports, provides an appropriation, provides for effective dates.	Failed

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