

HB 3167 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Knopp**Senate Committee On Rules**

Action Date: 05/16/23
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Lieber, Manning Jr, Steiner
Nays: 1 - Hansell
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definitions of "bona fide subscriber" and "newspaper" and adds definition of "digital newspaper" to allow for publication of legal notices in digital newspaper. Defines digital newspaper as online newspaper delivered in electronic form formatted similarly to printed newspaper and produced in archivable format. Specifies that newspaper conducts consistent, regular coverage of local news and at least 25 percent is locally and originally composed regardless of whether newspaper is produced or printed in local area. Allows newspaper to be exempt from certain requirements for number of bona fide subscribers or for 12 months of continuous publication if newspaper recognized as best suited for publication of public notices ceases to operate and no suitable alternative exists. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Support for local newspapers
- The ability to print legal notices in digital newspapers when no print newspaper is available
- The intent of the measure
- Potential unintended impacts to local newspapers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS chapter 193 establishes the requirements for legal notices in newspaper publications and radio and television broadcasts. For newspapers, public notices shall be published in any newspaper, as defined by statute, that is published within the county, city, district, or jurisdiction where the action, suit, or other proceeding is pending or is to be commenced. If no newspaper meeting the definition is published in the county, city, district, or jurisdiction, public notice must be given in the nearest published newspaper or in any publication that is published at least once a month in the county, city, district, or jurisdiction.

House Bill 3167 A changes definitions to allow the publication of legal notices in both printed newspapers and digital newspapers. The measure also allows the publication of notices in a newspaper that produces local news where at least 25 percent is locally and originally composed, regardless of where the newspaper is produced or printed and in situations where the newspaper recognized as best suited for publication of public notices ceases to operate and no suitable alternative exists.