

**THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 196

EFFECTIVE ~~APPROVED~~ April 16, 2012

WHEREAS, Rhode Island State law requires that the State as well as each of its cities and towns are required to publish notifications of public meetings a newspapers of adequate circulation; that businesses are required to publish notices relating to courts and civil procedure such as foreclosures and bankruptcy; that firms representing individuals must publish notice relating to probate and zoning issues; that this print requirement comes at the expense of the taxpayer; and that eliminating this mandate would save hundreds of thousands of local taxpayer dollars.

WHEREAS, During its 2011 session, the Rhode Island General Assembly absolved the school committees of their obligation to advertise meetings in the newspaper due to high costs.


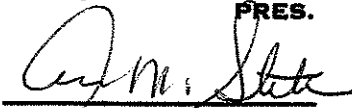
WHEREAS, The pending legislation in front of the Rhode Island State General Assembly will address the issue of alternative notifications of public notices in recognition of Rhode Islanders' growing dependence on smartphones, laptops and tablets as major sources of local and national news.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council supports the passages of House Bill 7748 and Senate Bill 2494 An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure

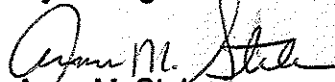
IN CITY COUNCIL

**APR 05 2012**

READ AND PASSED

  
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**PRES.**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLERK**

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature:

  
Anna M. Stetson  
City Clerk

2012 -- H 7748

LC01513**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND****IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY****JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012****A N A C T****RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY****Introduced By:** Representatives Slater, DeSimone, Bennett, and Hull**Date Introduced:** February 16, 2012**Referred To:** House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1-1 SECTION 1. Title 9 of the General Laws entitled "COURTS AND CIVIL  
1-2 PROCEDURE-PROCEDURE GENERALLY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the  
1-3 following chapter:  
1-4

**CHAPTER 34**

1-5

**ALTERNATE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES**

- 1-6 **9-34-1. Definitions.** – As used in this chapter "department" means the department of  
1-7 administration.  
1-8 **9-34-2. Alternative means of notice or advertisement.** – Notwithstanding any provision  
1-9 of the general or public laws to the contrary, any notice or other written matter required to be  
1-10 published in a newspaper of general circulation by any law of this state shall be deemed a legal  
1-11 notice or advertisement and provided that the requirement may be satisfied by posting of said  
1-12 notice or advertisement on an authorized website, as defined in the rules and regulations  
1-13 promulgated by the department in accordance with the provisions of section 9-34-7.  
1-14 (b) Posting of said notice or advertisement on the secretary of state's website pursuant to  
1-15 Section 42-46-6 is not sufficient to meet the requirement for the alternative means of notice or

1-16 advertisement.

1-17 **9-34-3. Disclosure.** – Whenever a notice or advertisement is posted using alternative  
 1-18 means of notice or advertisement, the party required to post the notice or advertisement must  
 1-19 include in the original hard copy of the notice or advertisement a statement of disclosure, clearly  
 1-20 identified in print, of the authorized website utilized for the notice or advertisement.

2-1 **9-34-4. Costs.** – Any costs associated with posting the notice or advertisement on the  
 2-2 authorized website shall be borne by the party required to post the notice or advertisement.

2-3 **9-34-5. Burden of proof.** – In any actions brought under this chapter, the burden shall be  
 2-4 on the party required to provide notice or advertisement to demonstrate that the notice or  
 2-5 advertisement was sufficient pursuant to the rules and regulations set forth by the department.

2-6 **9-34-6. Implementation.** – No later than January 1, 2013 the department shall  
 2-7 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter.

2-8 **9-34-7. Penalty.** – Any citizen or entity of the state who is aggrieved as a result of  
 2-9 violations of the provisions of this chapter may file a complaint with the attorney general. The  
 2-10 attorney general shall investigate the complaint and if the attorney general determines that the  
 2-11 allegations of the complaint are meritorious he or she may file a complaint on behalf of the  
 2-12 complainant in the superior court against the entities subject to the requirements of this chapter.

2-13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on April 1, 2013.

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**EXPLANATION  
 BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
 OF**

**A N A C T  
 RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY**

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3-1 This act would provide alternate means of notice or advertisement by electronic posting.

3-2 This act would take effect on April 1, 2013.

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 LC01513  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

AN ACT

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Miller, DiPalma, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 16, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Title 9 of the General Laws entitled "COURTS AND CIVIL  
2   PROCEDURE-PROCEDURE GENERALLY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the  
3   following chapter:

4                               CHAPTER 34

5                               ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES ACT

6           9-34-1. Definitions. — As used or within the intent of this chapter:

7           (1) "Department" shall mean the department of administration;

8           9-34-2. Alternative means of notice or advertisement. — Notwithstanding any provision  
9   of the general or public laws to the contrary, any notice or other written matter required to be  
10   published in a newspaper of general circulation by any law of this state or by the order of any  
11   court of record of this state shall be deemed a legal notice or advertisement and provided that the  
12   requirement may be satisfied by posting of said notice or advertisement on an authorized website,  
13   as defined in the rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with section 9-34-7 of this  
14   chapter.

15           9-34-3. Required electronic posting. — Posting of said notice or advertisement on the  
16   secretary of state's website pursuant to section 42-46-6 is not sufficient to meet the requirement  
17   for the alternative means of notice or advertisement.

18           9-34-4. Disclosure. — Whenever a notice or requirement is posted using alternative means  
19   of notice or advertisement, the party required to post the notice or advertisement will include in

1    the original hard copy of the notice or advertisement a statement of disclosure, clearly identified  
2    in print, of the authorized website utilized for the notice or advertisement.

3        **9-34-5. Costs.** – Any costs associated with posting the notice or advertisement on the  
4    authorized website shall be borne by the party required to post the notice or advertisement.

5        **9-34-6. Burden of proof.** – In all actions brought under this chapter, the burden shall be  
6    on the party required to provide notice or advertisement to demonstrate notice or advertisement  
7    was sufficient pursuant to the rules and regulations set forth by the department.

8        **9-34-7. Implementation.** – No later than January 1, 2013, the department shall  
9    promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter.

10       **9-34-8. Penalty.** – Any citizen or entity of the state who is aggrieved as a result of  
11    violations of the provisions of this chapter may file a complaint with the attorney general. The  
12    attorney general shall investigate the complaint and if the attorney general determines that the  
13    allegations of the complaint are meritorious he or she may file a complaint on behalf of the  
14    complainant in the superior court against the entities subjected to the requirements of this chapter.

15       SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC01442  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY

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1           This act would create a new chapter entitled Alternative Publication of Legal Notices Act  
2    which would allow any notice or other written matter required to be published in a newspaper of  
3    general circulation by any law of this state or by order of any court of record to be deemed a legal  
4    notice or advertisement and provided further that the requirement may be satisfied by posting of  
5    said notice or advertisement on an authorized website.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC01442

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