

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 2178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to publication of notices by a governmental entity on the Internet websites of a newspaper and the Texas Press Association.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2051, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2051.054 to read as follows:

Sec. 2051.054. INTERNET PUBLICATION OF NOTICES. (a) Subsections (b)(2) and (c) apply only if the Texas Press Association maintains an Internet website as a statewide repository of notices.

(b) A newspaper that publishes a notice shall, at no additional cost to the governmental entity placing the notice:

(1) publish the notice on one or more webpages on the newspaper's Internet website, if the newspaper maintains a website, that are:

(A) clearly designated for notices; and

(B) accessible to the public at no cost; and

(2) deliver the notice to the Texas Press Association for the association to publish on the association's Internet website described by Subsection (a).

(c) The Texas Press Association shall publish each notice it receives from a newspaper under Subsection (b)(2) on the association's Internet website described by Subsection (a). The association must ensure that the website:

1 (1) is accessible to the public at no cost;

2 (2) is updated as notices are received;

3 (3) is searchable and sortable by subject matter,
4 location, and both subject matter and location; and

5 (4) offers an e-mail notification service to which a
6 person may electronically subscribe to receive notifications that a
7 notice has been published on the website and that allows the
8 subscriber to limit the notifications by subject matter, location,
9 or both subject matter and location.

10 (d) A person required to publish a notice on an Internet
11 website under this section shall archive the notice on the website
12 in its entirety, including the date the notice is published.

13 (e) The validity of a notice printed in a newspaper and
14 published on an Internet website under this section is not affected
15 if:

16 (1) there is an error in the notice published on the
17 website; or

18 (2) publication of the notice on the website is
19 temporarily prevented as the result of a technical issue with the
20 website.

21 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
22 a notice published on or after the effective date of this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.