

By: Johnson of Dallas

H.B. No. 2073

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to publication of notice requirements for certain  
3 governmental entities and representatives.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 2051.044(a), Government Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) The newspaper in which a notice is published must:

8 (1) devote not less than 25 percent of its total column  
9 lineage to general interest items;

10 (2) be published at least once each week; and

11 (3) ~~[be entered as second-class postal matter in the  
12 county where published; and~~

13 ~~[(4)]~~ have been published regularly and continuously  
14 for at least 12 months before the governmental entity or  
15 representative publishes notice.

16 SECTION 2. Section 2051.049, Government Code, is amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 2051.049. SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER. (a) The  
19 governmental entity or representative required to publish a notice  
20 in a newspaper shall select, in accordance with this subchapter,  
21 one or more newspapers to publish the notice.

22 (b) To encourage the development of minority-owned  
23 businesses in this state, a governmental entity or representative  
24 that publishes a notice in a newspaper under Section 2051.044 shall

1 consider selecting a newspaper that is a minority-owned business  
2 if:

3 (1) a substantial percentage of the individuals  
4 residing in the area where the notice is to be published are members  
5 of one or more minority groups; and

6 (2) a newspaper in the area where the notice is to be  
7 published:

8 (A) is a minority-owned business; and

9 (B) is widely circulated in that area.

10 (c) In this section, "minority-owned business" and  
11 "minority group" have the meanings assigned by Section 161.131(c),  
12 Natural Resources Code.

13 SECTION 3. Section 2051.044(a), Government Code, as amended  
14 by this Act, and Section 2051.049(b), Government Code, as added by  
15 this Act, apply only to a publication of notice first published on  
16 or after the effective date of this Act. A publication of notice  
17 published before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
18 law in effect at the time of the publication, and the former law is  
19 continued in effect for that purpose.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.