



<b>TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:</b>	No
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>	
<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	Yes
<b>SENATE:</b>	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

<b>FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:</b>	No
<b>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:</b>	No
<b>VETO MESSAGE:</b>	No
<b>GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:</b>	Yes
<b>LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:</b>	No

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<b>REPORTS:</b>	No
<b>HEARINGS:</b>	No
<b>NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:</b>	No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 22, *approved February 28, 2025*  
Senate, No. 4136 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT allowing the publication of required public notices and  
2 legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 regardless of format <sup>1</sup>, requiring the submission of certain data,<sup>1</sup>  
4 and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8  
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:  
10 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal  
11 ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or permitted to be  
12 utilized by a person for the purpose of complying with any legal  
13 requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open  
14 Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1,  
15 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with  
16 R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing or publishing a  
17 public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for  
18 providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids,  
19 qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances,  
20 synopses, or summaries of official documents, shall be deemed  
21 eligible for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to **[March 1]**  
22 <sup>1</sup>**[December 31]** June 30<sup>1</sup>, 2025 if the newspaper's publication is in  
23 print or electronic format. The price to be paid for publishing all  
24 public notices or legal advertisements in print or electronic format as  
25 described in this section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant  
26 to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be  
27 required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published  
28 in an electronic format.

29 b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means an  
30 Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
31 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities that  
32 is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.  
33 (cf: P.L.2024, c.106, s.1)

34  
35 <sup>1</sup>2. (New section) a. Within 30 days of the effective date of  
36 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a newspaper  
37 or online news publication that provides public notice or legal  
38 advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the public  
39 body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

1 requirements of section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106, shall submit to the  
2 Governor and the Legislative Services Commission, established  
3 pursuant to P.L.1979, c.8 (C.52:11-54 et seq.), information on the  
4 newspaper's or online news publication's:

5 (1) number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;  
6 (2) number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each public  
7 body;

8 (3) number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;  
9 (4) amounts billed for the publication of public notices and legal  
10 advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by each  
11 public body;

12 (5) average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;

13 (6) number of daily page views for the webpage on the online  
14 news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal  
15 advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the  
16 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this  
17 bill); and

18 (7) any other information as may be requested by the Legislative  
19 Services Commission, in furtherance of this section, within deadlines  
20 to be determined by the commission.

21 b. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this  
22 section shall be submitted to the Office of Public Information in the  
23 Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the  
24 Legislative Services Commission.<sup>1</sup>

25

26 <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

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31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for  
33 required public notices and legal advertisements until certain  
34 specified date regardless of format; requires submission of certain  
subscription and other data.

## CHAPTER 22

**AN ACT** allowing the publication of required public notices and legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period regardless of format, requiring the submission of certain data, and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:

1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or permitted to be utilized by a person for the purpose of complying with any legal requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents, shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 if the newspaper's publication is in print or electronic format. The price to be paid for publishing all public notices or legal advertisements in print or electronic format as described in this section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format.

b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means an Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities that is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.

2. a. Within 30 days of the effective date of P.L.2025, c.22, a newspaper or online news publication that provides public notice or legal advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the public body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement requirements of section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106, shall submit to the Governor and the Legislative Services Commission, established pursuant to P.L.1979, c.8 (C.52:11-54 et seq.), information on the newspaper's or online news publication's:

(1) number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;

(2) number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each public body;

(3) number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;

(4) amounts billed for the publication of public notices and legal advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by each public body;

(5) average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;

(6) number of daily page views for the webpage on the online news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the effective date of P.L.2025, c.22; and

(7) any other information as may be requested by the Legislative Services Commission, in furtherance of this section, within deadlines to be determined by the commission.

b. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be submitted to the Office of Public Information in the Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the Legislative Services Commission.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 28, 2025.

**SENATE, No. 4136**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PAUL A. SARLO**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT allowing the publication of required public notices and  
2 legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 regardless of format and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or  
10 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or  
11 permitted to be utilized by a person for the purpose of complying  
12 with any legal requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3  
13 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8),  
14 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of  
15 complying with R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing  
16 or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but  
17 not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the  
18 solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication  
19 of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents,  
20 shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1,  
21 2025 to **March 1** December 31, 2025 if the newspaper's  
22 publication is in print or electronic format. The price to be paid for  
23 publishing all public notices or legal advertisements in print or  
24 electronic format as described in this section shall not exceed the  
25 rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be  
26 charged, and registration shall not be required, for viewing public  
27 notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format.

28 b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means  
29 an Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
30 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities  
31 that is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.

32 (cf: P.L.2024, c.106, s.1)

33  
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

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#### STATEMENT

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39 Under current law, a newspaper utilized, or permitted to be  
40 utilized, by a person or public body, as defined in section 3 of the  
41 "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from  
42 January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of  
43 complying with any requirements for issuing or publishing a public  
44 notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for  
45 providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids,

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

**S4136 SARLO, A.M.BUCCO**

3

1 qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances,  
2 synopses, or summaries of official documents, is deemed eligible  
3 for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 if the  
4 newspaper's publication is in print or electronic format. This bill  
5 amends that law to provide that public bodies may continue using  
6 qualifying newspapers for required public notices and legal  
7 advertisements until December 31, 2025 regardless of format.

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 4136**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PAUL A. SARLO**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO**

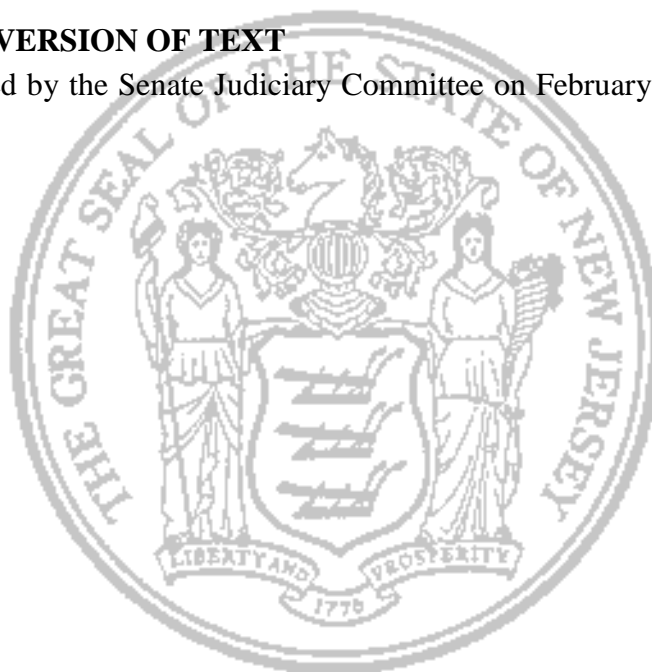
**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format; requires submission of certain subscription and other data.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 20, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2025)**

1 AN ACT allowing the publication of required public notices and  
2 legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 regardless of format <sup>1</sup>, requiring the submission of certain data,<sup>1</sup>  
4 and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8  
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:

10 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal  
11 ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or permitted to be  
12 utilized by a person for the purpose of complying with any legal  
13 requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open  
14 Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1,  
15 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with  
16 R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing or publishing a  
17 public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for  
18 providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids,  
19 qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances,  
20 synopses, or summaries of official documents, shall be deemed  
21 eligible for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to **[March 1]**  
22 **<sup>1</sup>[December 31] June 30<sup>1</sup>**, 2025 if the newspaper's publication is in  
23 print or electronic format. The price to be paid for publishing all  
24 public notices or legal advertisements in print or electronic format as  
25 described in this section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant  
26 to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be  
27 required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published  
28 in an electronic format.

29 b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means an  
30 Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
31 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities that  
32 is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.

33 (cf: P.L.2024, c.106, s.1)

34  
35 <sup>1</sup>2. (New section) a. Within 30 days of the effective date of  
36 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a newspaper  
37 or online news publication that provides public notice or legal  
38 advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the public  
39 body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement  
40 requirements of section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106, shall submit to the  
41 Governor and the Legislative Services Commission, established  
42 pursuant to P.L.1979, c.8 (C.52:11-54 et seq.), information on the  
43 newspaper's or online news publication's:

44 (1) number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

- 1       (2) number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each public  
2 body;  
3       (3) number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;  
4       (4) amounts billed for the publication of public notices and legal  
5 advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by each  
6 public body;  
7       (5) average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;  
8       (6) number of daily page views for the webpage on the online  
9 news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal  
10 advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the  
11 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this  
12 bill); and  
13       (7) any other information as may be requested by the Legislative  
14 Services Commission, in furtherance of this section, within deadlines  
15 to be determined by the commission.  
16       b. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this  
17 section shall be submitted to the Office of Public Information in the  
18 Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the  
19 Legislative Services Commission.<sup>1</sup>

20  
21

<sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 4136

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4136.

This bill, as amended, provides that a newspaper utilized, or that was permitted to be utilized, by a person for the purpose of complying with any legal requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3 of the “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act,” P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents, would be deemed eligible for the same purposes through June 30, 2025 if the newspaper’s publication is in print or electronic format. Currently, the statutory law only provides eligibility for persons or public bodies to use the qualifying newspapers for such purposes whether in print or electronic format through March 1, 2025, thus the bill would establish a four-month extension for their continued use.

The bill would also require, within 30 days of the bill’s effective date, a newspaper or online news publication that provides services to a public body for the purposes of the public body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement requirements as described above, to submit certain data to the Governor and to the Office of Public Information in the Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the Legislative Services Commission. The data is required to include information on the newspaper’s or online news publication’s:

- number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;
- number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each public body;
- number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;
- amounts billed for publication of public notices and legal advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by each public body;
- average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;

- number of daily page views for the webpage on the online news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the effective date of the bill; and

- any other information as may be requested by the Legislative Services Commission within deadlines to be determined by the commission.

The bill would take effect immediately.

The committee amendments to the bill:

- alter the proposed end date for the use of eligible newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements, regardless of format, from December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2025;

- require a newspaper or online news publication that provides services to a public body for the purposes of that body complying with the current law's public notice and legal advertisement requirements, to submit information to Governor and the Legislative Services Commission on subscription numbers and pricing, newspapers sold by retailers, amounts billed for notice and advertising services, daily webpage views of notices and advertisements since January 1, 2024, and any other information requested by the commission; and

- update the bill's title and synopsis to reflect the changes made by the amendments.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5343**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2025)**

1 AN ACT allowing the publication of required public notices and  
2 legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 regardless of format and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or  
10 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or  
11 permitted to be utilized by a person for the purpose of complying  
12 with any legal requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3  
13 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8),  
14 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of  
15 complying with R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing  
16 or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but  
17 not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the  
18 solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication  
19 of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents,  
20 shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1,  
21 2025 to **March 1** December 31, 2025 if the newspaper's  
22 publication is in print or electronic format. The price to be paid for  
23 publishing all public notices or legal advertisements in print or  
24 electronic format as described in this section shall not exceed the  
25 rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be  
26 charged, and registration shall not be required, for viewing public  
27 notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format.

28 b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means  
29 an Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
30 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities  
31 that is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.

32 (cf: P.L.2024, c.106, s.1)

33  
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

35  
36  
37 STATEMENT

38  
39 Under current law, a newspaper utilized, or permitted to be  
40 utilized, by a person or public body, as defined in section 3 of the  
41 "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from  
42 January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of  
43 complying with any requirements for issuing or publishing a public  
44 notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for  
45 providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids,

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

**A5343 ATKINS, MCCANN STAMATO**

3

1 qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances,  
2 synopses, or summaries of official documents, is deemed eligible  
3 for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 if the  
4 newspaper's publication is in print or electronic format. This bill  
5 amends that law to provide that public bodies may continue using  
6 qualifying newspapers for required public notices and legal  
7 advertisements until December 31, 2025 regardless of format.

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5343**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format; requires submission of certain subscription data.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on February 20, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2025)**

1 AN ACT allowing the publication of required public notices and  
2 legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 regardless of format <sup>1</sup>, requiring the submission of certain data,<sup>1</sup>  
4 and amending P.L.2024, c.106.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*

8  
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106 is amended to read as follows:

10 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal  
11 ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized or permitted to be  
12 utilized by a person for the purpose of complying with any legal  
13 requirement, or a public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open  
14 Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1,  
15 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with  
16 R.S.35:1-2.2 or any other requirements for issuing or publishing a  
17 public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to,  
18 for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids,  
19 qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances,  
20 synopses, or summaries of official documents, shall be deemed  
21 eligible for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to **【March 1】**  
22 **<sup>1</sup>【December 31】 June 30<sup>1</sup>**, 2025 if the newspaper's publication is in  
23 print or electronic format. The price to be paid for publishing all  
24 public notices or legal advertisements in print or electronic format  
25 as described in this section shall not exceed the rates established  
26 pursuant to R.S.35:2-1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration  
27 shall not be required, for viewing public notices or legal  
28 advertisements published in an electronic format.

29 b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means  
30 an Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
31 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities  
32 that is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.

33 (cf: P.L.2024, c.106, s.1)

34  
35 <sup>1</sup>2. (New section) a. Within 30 days of the effective date of  
36 P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. \_\_\_\_\_ (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a  
37 newspaper or online news publication that provides public notice or  
38 legal advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the  
39 public body complying with the public notice and legal  
40 advertisement requirements of section 1 of P.L.2024, c.106, shall  
41 submit to the Governor and the Legislative Services Commission,  
42 established pursuant to P.L.1979, c.8 (C.52:11-54 et seq.),  
43 information on the newspaper's or online news publication's:

44 (1) number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

- 1     (2) number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each  
2 public body;  
3     (3) number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;  
4     (4) amounts billed for the publication of public notices and legal  
5 advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by  
6 each public body;  
7     (5) average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;  
8     (6) number of daily page views for the webpage on the online  
9 news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal  
10 advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the  
11 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this  
12 bill); and  
13     (7) any other information as may be requested by the Legislative  
14 Services Commission, in furtherance of this section, within  
15 deadlines to be determined by the commission.  
16     b. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this  
17 section shall be submitted to the Office of Public Information in the  
18 Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of  
19 the Legislative Services Commission.<sup>1</sup>

20

21     <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 5343**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5343.

Under current law, a newspaper utilized, or permitted to be utilized, by a person or public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents, is deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 if the newspaper's publication is in print or electronic format.

This bill amends that law to provide that public bodies may continue using qualifying newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until June 30, 2025 regardless of format.

The bill also requires a newspaper or online news publication that provides public notice or legal advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the public body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement requirements pursuant to P.L.2024, c.106, to submit certain data to the Governor and the Office of Public Information in the Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the Legislative Services Commission. The data is required to include information on the newspaper's or online news publication's:

- (1) number of paid digital subscriptions, by each public body;
- (2) number of unpaid digital or print subscriptions, by each public body;
- (3) number of newspapers sold each day by retailers;
- (4) amounts billed for the publication of public notices and legal advertisements in print or electronic format from 2020-2024 by each public body;
- (5) average retail price of digital and print subscriptions;
- (6) number of daily page views for the webpage on the online news publication's Internet website where public notices and legal

advertisements are published from January 1, 2024 through the effective date of this bill; and

(7) any other information as may be requested by the Legislative Services Commission within deadlines to be determined by the commission.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- change the date that public bodies may continue using qualifying newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements from March 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025, regardless of format; and
- require a newspaper or online news publication that provides public notice or legal advertising services to a public body for the purposes of the public body complying with the public notice and legal advertisement requirements pursuant to P.L.2024, c.106, to submit certain subscription data to the Governor and the Office of Public Information in the Office of Legislative Services for distribution to the membership of the Legislative Services Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# Acting Governor Way Takes Action on Legislation

02/28/2025

**TRENTON** – Today, Acting Governor Way signed the following bills into law:

**S3735/A4904 (Holzapfel, Scutari/Stanley, Karabinchak)** – Extends certain provisions of P.L.2022, c.9.

**S4136/A5343 (Sarlo, Bucco/Atkins, McCann Stamato)** - Authorizes public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format; requires submission of certain subscription and other data.