

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2024

CHAPTER: 106

NJSA: TEMPORARY & EXECUTED Allows public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format.

BILL NO: A5151 (Substituted for S3957 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Atkins, Reginald W. and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 12/12/2024

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

SENATE: --

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 12/19/2024

SENATE: 12/19/2024

DATE OF APPROVAL: 12/31/2024

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (A5151 Aca (1R) enacted)

ADVANCE LAW Yes

PAMPHLET LAW Yes

A5151

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): Yes AAP 12/16/24 1R

TECHNICAL REVIEW: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: 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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S3957 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes
REPRINT(S):	Yes SJU 12/16/2024
TECHNICAL REVIEW:	No
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	
ASSEMBLY:	No
SENATE:	Yes

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Available Upon Request

Press staff reports, 'Digest', *Press of Atlantic City, The* (online), 2 Jan 2025
7A<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/19DD9CFB8669A5B8>>

CL/MM

P.L. 2024, CHAPTER 106, *approved December 31, 2024*
Assembly, No. 5151 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period
3 ¹**[without regard to]** regardless of¹ format.
4

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

8 1. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or
9 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized ¹or
10 permitted to be utilized¹ by a ¹person for the purpose of complying
11 with any legal requirement, or a¹ public body, as defined in section
12 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8),
13 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of
14 complying with ¹R.S.35:1-2.2 or¹ any ¹other¹ requirements for
15 issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement,
16 including ¹, but not limited to,¹ for providing adequate notice of a
17 meeting, ¹**[and designated as an official newspaper,]** the
18 solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication
19 of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents,¹
20 shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1,
21 2025 to March 1, 2025 ¹**[regardless of physical or digital format**
22 **for]** if¹ the newspaper's publication ¹is in print or electronic format.
23 The price to be paid for publishing all public notices or legal
24 advertisements in print or electronic format as described in this
25 section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-
26 1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be required,
27 for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an
28 electronic format¹.

29 ¹b. 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.¹
33

34 2. This act shall take effect ¹**[on December 31, 2024]**
35 immediately¹.

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:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 16, 2024.

A5151 [1R]

2

1

2

3

4

5

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

CHAPTER 106

AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period regardless of format.

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

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 March 1, 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. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 31, 2024.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Allows public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date without regard to format.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2024)

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period
3 without regard to format.

4

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

7

8 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal
9 ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized by a public body, as
10 defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975,
11 c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
12 for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or
13 publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including for
14 providing adequate notice of a meeting, and designated as an
15 official newspaper, shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes
16 from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 regardless of physical or
17 digital format for the newspaper's publication.

18

19 2. This act shall take effect on December 31, 2024.

20

21

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STATEMENT

23

24 This bill provides that a newspaper utilized by a public body, as
25 defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975,
26 c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
27 for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or
28 publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including for
29 providing adequate notice of a meeting, and designated as an
30 official newspaper, is deemed eligible for the same purposes from
31 January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 regardless of physical or digital
32 format for the newspaper's publication.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

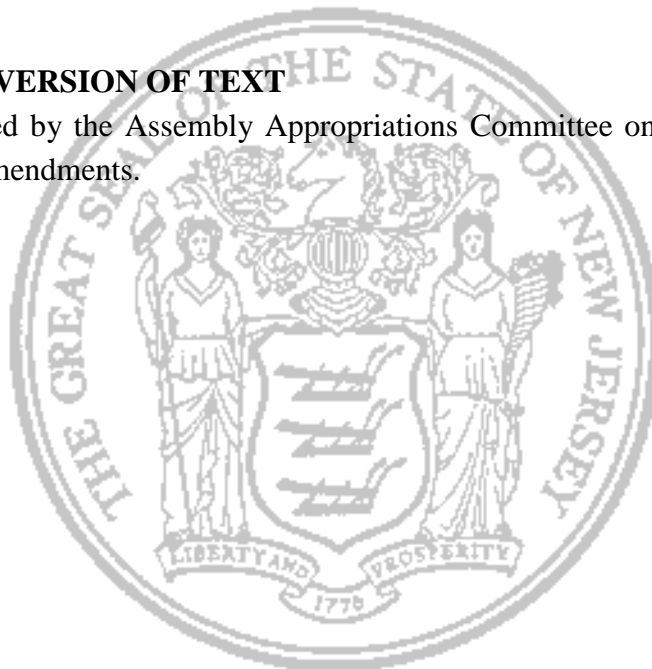
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Donlon and Peterpaul

SYNOPSIS

Allows 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 reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on December 16, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period
3 ¹**[without regard to]** regardless of¹ format.
4

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

8 1. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or
9 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized ¹or
10 permitted to be utilized¹ by a ¹person for the purpose of complying
11 with any legal requirement, or a¹ public body, as defined in section
12 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8),
13 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of
14 complying with ¹R.S.35:1-2.2 or¹ any ¹other¹ requirements for
15 issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement,
16 including ¹, but not limited to,¹ for providing adequate notice of a
17 meeting, ¹**[and designated as an official newspaper,]** the
18 solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication
19 of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents,¹
20 shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1,
21 2025 to March 1, 2025 ¹**[regardless of physical or digital format**
22 **for]** if¹ the newspaper's publication ¹is in print or electronic format.
23 The price to be paid for publishing all public notices or legal
24 advertisements in print or electronic format as described in this
25 section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-
26 1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be required,
27 for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an
28 electronic format¹.

29 ¹b. 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.¹
33

34 2. This act shall take effect ¹**[on December 31, 2024]**
35 immediately¹.

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:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 16, 2024.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5151

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5151.

As amended, this bill provides that 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. Under the bill, a price paid for publication is prohibited from exceeding an amount specified in current law. Additionally, a fee is not permitted to be charged, and registration is not to be required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- Specify that, in addition to newspapers that are utilized for complying with required public notices, newspapers that are permitted to be utilized are also eligible for complying with required public notices;
- Specify that individual persons are also able to issue or publish materials as provided for in the bill;
- Provide that the issuance of public notices also includes the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents, and include reference to certain statutes. In its original form, the bill just included providing adequate notice of a meeting;
- Provide that a price paid for publication is prohibited from exceeding an amount specified in current law;

- Specify that a fee is not permitted to be charged, and registration is not to be required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format;
- Add a definition of "electronic format" to mean 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, and to use that term to describe allowed publication under the bill; and
- Provide that the bill is to take effect immediately, and conform the bill's title and synopsis to a related Senate bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE, No. 3957

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Allows 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: 12/12/2024)

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period
3 regardless of format.

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

7
8 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or municipal
9 ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized by a public body, as
10 defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975,
11 c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
12 for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or
13 publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including for
14 providing adequate notice of a meeting, and designated as an
15 official newspaper, shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes
16 from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 regardless of physical or
17 digital format for the newspaper's publication.

18
19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22

STATEMENT

23

24 This bill provides that a newspaper utilized by a public body, as
25 defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975,
26 c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
27 for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or
28 publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including for
29 providing adequate notice of a meeting, and designated as an
30 official newspaper, is deemed eligible for the same purposes from
31 January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 regardless of physical or digital
32 format for the newspaper's publication.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3957

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Allows 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 reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 16, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/12/2024)

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period
3 regardless of format.

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

7
8 1. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or
9 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized ¹or
10 permitted to be utilized¹ by a ¹person for the purpose of complying
11 with any legal requirement, or a¹ public body, as defined in section
12 3 of the “¹Senator Byron M. Baer¹ Open Public Meetings Act,”
13 P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), from January 1, 2024 through
14 December 31, 2024 for the purpose of complying with ¹R.S.35:1-
15 2.2 or¹ any ¹other¹ requirements for issuing or publishing a public
16 notice or legal advertisement, including ¹, but not limited to,¹ for
17 providing adequate notice of a meeting, ¹[and designated as an
18 official newspaper,] the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or
19 proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or
20 summaries of official documents,¹ shall be deemed eligible for the
21 same purposes from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 ¹[regardless
22 of physical or digital format for] if¹ the newspaper’s publication ¹is
23 in 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 format¹.

29 ¹b. 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.¹

33
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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:

¹Senate SJU committee amendments adopted December 16, 2024.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3957

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2024

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3957.

As amended, this bill provides that 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 “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 from January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025 if the newspaper’s publication is in print or electronic format. Under the bill, a price paid for publication in print or electronic format would be prohibited from exceeding an amount specified in current law. See R.S.35:2-1. Additionally, a fee would not be permitted to be charged, and registration would not be required, for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format.

The committee amendments to the bill:

- specify that an individual person, for the purpose of complying with any legal requirement, may utilize a newspaper in calendar year 2025 as set forth in the bill based upon any newspaper utilized or permitted to be utilized by the person during calendar year 2024;

- specify that newspapers that are permitted to be utilized by public bodies during calendar year 2024 for complying with requirements for issuing or publishing public notices or legal advertisements would be deemed eligible to be used in calendar year 2025 as set forth in the bill along with any newspaper utilized by such public bodies in calendar year 2024;

- provide that the issuance or publication of public notices or legal advertisements also includes the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents; as originally introduced, the bill only

expressly indicated adequate notice of a meeting as an example of an issuance or publication;

- provide that a price paid for newspaper publication in print or electronic format would be prohibited from exceeding an amount specified in current law as set forth in R.S.35:2-1;

- prohibit the charging of a fee or requiring registration in order to view public notices or legal advertisements published in an electronic format; and

- add a definition of “electronic format” to mean “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,” and use that term to describe a newspaper’s publication in such format.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 12/31/2024

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A3853/S2988 (Conaway, McCoy, Speight/Gopal, Pou) – Extends certain pay parity regarding telemedicine and telehealth until July 1, 2026.

A5151/S3957 (Atkins, Carter, McCann Stamato/Sarlo, Scutari, Bucco) – Allows public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format.

A5152/S3965 (Schaer, Haider, Park, Karabinchak, Greenwald/Scutari, Beach, Singer) – Reschedules June 2025 primary election date; provides for adjustment of certain election related deadlines.

Acting Governor Way Takes Action on Legislation

12/27/2024

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

S2864 w/GR (Lagana/Verelli, Swain, Venezia) – Establishes working hours for certain minors employed as professional athletes.