

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 178 (HB 650)

2023 Regular Session

Edmonds

Existing law requires each parish, municipality, and school board to select a newspaper as its official journal and to publish its minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and other official proceedings in the official journal.

Existing law provides that such publication may be made under contract and sets maximum rates for compensation of the official journal for publication.

New law authorizes compensation for publication at rates higher than the statutory maximums if both parties agree to a higher rate.

Existing law, which is phased out as provided below, provides the following maximum compensation rates:

- (1) \$6 per square of 100 words in parishes that do not contain a city with a population of over 100,000.
- (2) \$.33 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population of more than 100,000, but not one with more than 300,000.
- (3) \$.37 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population of more than 300,000.

New law provides for maximum compensation rates based on price per character. Provides that "character" does not include spaces, letting, or kerning. Provides that the maximum rate is \$.02 per character if the parish has a municipality with a population of more than 100,000 and \$.015 if the parish does not have such a municipality. Provides for costs of specialized printing.

New law provides for a transitional period between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2026, during which official journals may submit bids based on either the existing law or new law compensation methods. Provides that on and after Jan. 1, 2027, compensation for all publications shall be based on a per character price as provided by new law.

New law provides that existing law and new law are also applicable to the publication of public notices. New law provides additionally relative to the publication of official proceedings and public notices by official journals as follows:

- (1) Requires official journals to have a website and post the local government's proceedings and notices on that website and on a collective website in which a majority of the state's official journals participate.
- (2) Requires an official journal to, within 30 days of publication, submit a bill for the publication that includes specified information.
- (3) Requires that published proceedings and notices be retained by the La. Public Notice program promulgated by the La. Press Assoc. for a minimum of three years.
- (4) Provides that, except where constitutionally infirm or due to the negligence of the public body, a fault in publication shall not affect the validity of the publication.

Effective August 1, 2023, except that the repeal of phased out provisions is effective July 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 43:140(3)(intro. para.) and 147(A) and (B); Adds R.S. 43:141.1, 143.1, 147.1, and 147.2; Repeals R.S. 43:147 and 147.2)