
DIGEST

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HB 481 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Riser

Abstract: Provides for compensation for publication of official proceedings and public notices.

Present law authorizes parishes, municipalities, and school boards to publish their official proceedings and public notices by contract. Provides that payment may be made monthly or quarterly.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 43:147.1) provides for maximum rates based on price per character, unless parties agree to a higher rate. Provides that "character" does not include spaces, letting, or kerning. Provides that the maximum rate is two cents per character if the parish has a city with a population of more than 100,000 and one and one-half cents per character if the parish does not have a city with a population of more than 100,000.

Proposed law increases the maximum rates based on price per character. Provides that the maximum rate is three cents per character in all parishes.

Present law (R.S. 43:147) provides for maximum rates that an official journal may charge generally as follows:

- (1) \$6 per square of 100 words in parishes that do not contain a city with a population greater than 100,000.
- (2) \$.33 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population of greater than 100,000 but no city with a population greater than 300,000.
- (3) \$.37 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population greater than 300,000.

Present law (R.S. 43:147.2) provides that from Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2026, a journal may submit a bid pursuant to present law (R.S. 43:147) or present law (R.S. 43:147.1) or both, at the journal's option. Provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2027, a journal shall submit bids pursuant to present law (R.S. 43:147.1), unless the governing body requests otherwise.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the lesser of the rates provided for in proposed law or the rate in effect on January 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 43:147.1(B)(1) and(2); Adds R.S. 43:147.1(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add provisions providing that the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the lesser of the rates provided for in proposed law or the rate in effect on January 1, 2026.
2. Remove provision that requires parishes, municipalities, and school boards to publish official proceedings and public notices by contract.
3. Make technical changes.