
DIGEST

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Ivey

HB No. 725

Abstract: Authorizes parishes, municipalities, and school boards to use their official websites as their official journals.

Present law requires each parish, municipality, and school board, Orleans Parish excepted, to select a newspaper as its official journal. Further provides criteria that a newspaper must meet to be an official journal and requirements for selecting a journal and provides for payment for printing required matters in such journal. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law authorizes each parish, municipality, or school board to select its official website as its official journal. Proposed law requires annual selection of an official journal, whether a newspaper or a website, by its first meeting in June each year as provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that if an official website is selected as the official journal of a parish, municipality, or school board:

- (1) The website must provide a direct and prominently indicated link from its home page to pages containing public notices and other material required to be published.
- (2) All material required to be published must be made available on the website in accordance with applicable law. For each required day of publication, the material must be accessible for at least one consecutive 24-hour period, which shall be fully circumscribed within applicable publishing deadlines. All such published material must be archived and remain accessible to the public for at least 90 days after the last date of publication.
- (3) The governing authority or school board must make available a report generated by the computer from which the website is made available to the public. The report must indicate times and dates of postings and other information that offers presumptive proof of when particular material was accessible by the general public on the website.

Proposed law provides that if the official website is selected as the official journal, then the parish, municipality, or school board selecting the website must submit the URL of the website along with the effective date of the selection and the period for which the selection is effective to the secretary of state.

Present law provides that for the purposes of meeting the publication requirements of La. Const.

Art. III, Sec. 13, the official journal on file with the secretary of state shall be the official journal of the parish, municipality, or school board. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 43:141, 145, and 150; Adds R.S. 43:142.1)