

# HOUSE BILL 1475

L2  
HB 79/21 – HGO

2lr3296  
CF 2lr3297

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By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 28, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper**  
3 **in General Circulation – Online Newspapers**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the meaning of “newspaper” or “newspaper in general  
5 circulation” when referring to the publication of a certain legal advertisement or  
6 legal notice to include certain publications that are offered in a print format or  
7 through a dedicated website under certain circumstances; and generally relating to  
8 the publication of legal advertisements and legal notices.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – General Provisions  
11 Section 1–113  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 1–113.

18 (a) Unless otherwise provided, in a law, resolution, or court order, judgment, or  
19 decree that refers to publishing a legal advertisement or legal notice, words such as  
20 “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” mean a publication **THAT IS OFFERED**  
21 **EITHER IN A PRINT FORMAT OR THROUGH A DEDICATED WEBSITE** that:

22 (1) [has at least four pages;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) habitually contains news items, reports of current events, editorial  
2 comments, advertising matter, and other miscellaneous information that is of public  
3 interest and is found generally in an ordinary newspaper;

4 [(3)] (2) has been published and distributed **THROUGH PRINT OR ON A**  
5 **DEDICATED WEBSITE**, by sale, from an established place of business at least once a week  
6 for 6 months or more before publication of the advertisement or notice;

7 [(4)] (3) has general circulation throughout the community where the  
8 publication is published; and

9 [(5)] (4) **IF OFFERED IN A PRINT FORMAT:**

10 (I) **HAS AT LEAST FOUR PAGES; AND**

11 (II) qualifies for Periodicals rates for mailing through the  
12 United States Postal Service.

13 (b) Subject to subsection (a) of this section and for purposes of the public general  
14 laws of the State, in Prince George’s County, “newspaper in general circulation” includes a  
15 newspaper that:

16 (1) is designated by the County Council as a newspaper of record; or

17 (2) (i) qualifies under subsection (a) of this section with respect to  
18 Prince George’s County; and

19 (ii) is published by a small business as defined in § 14–201 of the  
20 State Finance and Procurement Article.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2022.