

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 523 (St. Mary's County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

**St. Mary's County – Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation –
Definition**

This bill modifies the definition of newspaper or newspaper in general circulation in St. Mary's County to include publications that are offered free of charge.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect St. Mary's County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, “newspaper” or “newspaper in general circulation” used in the context of publishing a legal advertisement or legal notice means a publication that:

- has at least four pages;
- habitually contains news items, reports of current events, editorial comments, advertising matter, and other miscellaneous information that is of public interest and is found generally in an ordinary newspaper;
- has been published and distributed, by sale, from an established place of business at least once a week for six months or more before publication of the advertisement or notice;

- has general circulation throughout the community where the publication is published; and
- qualifies for periodicals rates for mailing through the U.S. Postal Service.

In Prince George's County, newspaper in general circulation includes (1) a newspaper that is designated by the county council as a newspaper of record or (2) a newspaper that otherwise meets the general definition above and is published by a small business as defined in the State Finance and Procurement Article.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Department of Legislative Services

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