



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

January 28, 2021

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations

**Bill:** HB 79 – Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation – Online Newspapers

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 79, which allows a local government to utilize either a newspaper of general circulation or a dedicated website to satisfy a requirement to publish legal notice.

Incorporated municipalities throughout the state expend thousands of dollars each year on newspaper advertisements to post legal notices pertaining to an annexation, a charter amendment, a new or amended comprehensive master plan, or a new or amended zoning regulation. As newspaper circulation continues to decline significantly each year and internet usage increases, it is important that a more technologically efficient manner to publicize municipal and county legal notices be adopted so that citizens impacted by these actions are kept fully informed.

HB 79 would provide enabling authority to implement a cost-effective alternative to newspaper publication that would both expand the notification coverage and meet legal notification requirements of state law.

The Maryland Municipal League therefore supports HB 79 and respectfully requests that this committee provide the bill with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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