

The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 222  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3130 · 410-841-3130  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3130  
Fax 301-858-3053 · 410-841-3053  
Jared.Solomon@house.state.md.us



**JARED SOLOMON**  
*Legislative District 18*  
Montgomery County

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Vice Chair, Education  
and Economic Development

*House Chair*  
Joint Audit and Evaluation  
Committee

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony SB 157 : Municipalities – Charter Amendments – Notice**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and Environmental Committee**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on SB 157, an act addressing Municipalities, Charter Amendments, and Notice.

I introduced SB 157 to give small municipalities the option to avoid the burden of having to pay the high cost of newspaper advertising for notifying their residents of proposed charter amendments when they could instead reach those same residents more directly and cheaper by mail or by hand delivery.

Under current law, if municipalities intend to amend their charter or if a charter amendment is proposed by referendum, they are required to publish notices in a “newspaper of general circulation that is available for sale for 4 straight weeks” in order to notify the public of the proposed charter modification. Municipalities with no local paper – like those in Montgomery County - are required to advertise in larger papers, such as the Washington Post. The cost to place an ad in a regional paper can be costly and inefficient.

For example, one of the municipalities in my district paid over \$2,000 for a 1 inch by 3 inch advertisement in a major paper in a classified section most likely overlooked by most of the village residents. The same jurisdiction printed the amendment in a readable form in their monthly newsletter, which is delivered to every home in the village, and on their website along with an explanation of the reasons for altering the Charter.

Residents were probably much more likely to read the jurisdiction’s newsletter than they were to view the Friday classifieds of the Washington Post—the only newspaper of general circulation left standing in their area. I believe this bill provides a common sense option to help our municipalities in certain areas save money, while most importantly, preserving the public notification requirement outlined in statute.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for SB 157.