

HOUSE No. 4650

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michelle L. Ciccolo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act allowing "print free" digital legal notices for the town of Lexington.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/7/2024</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>5/9/2024</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>5/10/2024</i>

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By Representative Ciccolo of Lexington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4650) of Michelle L. Ciccolo, Cindy F. Friedman and Michael J. Barrett (by vote of the town) that the town of Lexington be authorized to satisfy legal notice requirements by digital publication. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act allowing "print free" digital legal notices for the town of Lexington.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. Purpose

2 The purpose of this Act is to allow, but not require, the Town of Lexington to satisfy
3 legal notice requirements entirely by digital publication as voted necessary by its Select Board in
4 light of the changing landscape of print newspaper businesses, particularly at the local level.

5 Section 2. Means of Legal Notice Publication

6 Notwithstanding section 13(b) of chapter 4 of the General Laws or any other general or
7 special law to the contrary, wherever the Town of Lexington, or any committee, department,
8 board, commission, or officer thereof is to publish a legal notice in a newspaper or newspaper of
9 general circulation, such requirement may be satisfied by one or more of the following means as
10 authorized by local vote in Section 3:

11 A. a newspaper of local or general circulation’s print publication;

- 12 B. a newspaper’s website;
- 13 C. websites reporting local news and opinion which satisfy all criteria for digital
14 publication set forth in said section 13(b) of chapter 4 of the General Laws;
- 15 D. a statewide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices; or
- 16 E. a town wide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices.

17 Section 3. Local Vote on Means of Publication

18 A. For all legal notices to be issued by Town of Lexington committee, department,
19 board, commission, or officer other than the School Committee, Lexington Public Schools, or a
20 department or officer of the School Committee or Lexington Public Schools, the Select Board by
21 majority vote shall determine at least two of the means of legal notice publication set forth in
22 Section 2 to satisfy publication requirements.

23 B. For all legal notices to be issued by the School Committee, Lexington Public
24 Schools, or a department or officer of the School Committee or Lexington Public Schools, or a
25 department or officer of the School Committee or Lexington Public Schools, the School
26 Committee by majority vote shall determine at least two of the means of legal notice publication
27 set forth in Section 2 to satisfy publication requirements.

28 C. The Select Board and School Committee may revisit their means of publication
29 votes at their discretion and elect different means of publication for the options afforded under
30 Section 2 by majority vote.

31 Section 4: This Act shall take effect upon passage.