

SENATE No. 1137

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 relative to legal advertisements in online-only newspapers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1137

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1137) of John C. Velis and James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to legal advertisements in online-only newspapers. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to legal advertisements in online-only newspapers.

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. Subsection (b) of section 13 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Provided
3 further, that for an online-only newspaper that does not maintain a print publication, publication
4 on its own website and on a statewide website shall satisfy the publication requirement.

5 SECTION 2. Subsection (d) of said section 13 of said chapter 4, as so appearing, is
6 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- For an online-only newspaper, an error in a
7 legal notice published on the online-only newspaper's website or the statewide website that is the
8 result of (1) an error of the website operator; or (2) a temporary website outage or service
9 interruption that prevents the publication or display of a legal notice on the website, shall not
10 constitute a defect in publication of the legal notice; provided, however, that the legal notice
11 appears correctly on either the online-only newspaper's website or the statewide website, and
12 satisfies all other legal notice requirements.