

HCS HB 2289 -- PUBLIC NOTICES

SPONSOR: Andrews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 14 to 0, with 1 present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2289.

Currently, in order to qualify as a newspaper legally acceptable to run public notices and advertisements, a newspaper must have been published regularly for a period of three years; or must be the successor newspaper to a defunct newspaper and begin publication no later than 30 days after the termination of the prior newspaper.

This bill reduces the time period of regular publication from three years to one year, and increases the time period from 30 days to 90 days within which a successor newspaper must begin publication. The bill also allows a newspaper that has been purchased or newly established by another newspaper that satisfies these conditions to qualify.

This bill also modifies the requirements of notice for sale by an operator of a self-service storage facility for the sale of personal property of an occupant in default. In addition to advertising in the classified section of a newspaper prior to sale, the operator may also and instead advertise in any other commercially reasonable manner. The advertisement is commercially reasonable if at least three independent bidders attend the sale.

This bill is the same as HB 764 (2021).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will provide relief and stability to local newspapers. Current requirements under the law are outdated and lead to undue legal roadblocks. The publishing time frame change proposed by this bill allows newspapers to maintain their legal status. Newspapers are often the only source of reliable news for small and rural communities. This bill will ensure smaller newspapers are able to stay in print and provide for these communities. Newspapers have had problems with maintaining circulation with changes in ownership, the increased time period under this bill will help newspapers maintain viability and keep their legal status.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Andrews; Arnie C. Ac
Dienoff; and the Missouri Press Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full
written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on
the House website.