

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5151**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER**

**District 22 (Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman BARBARA MCCANN STAMATO**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

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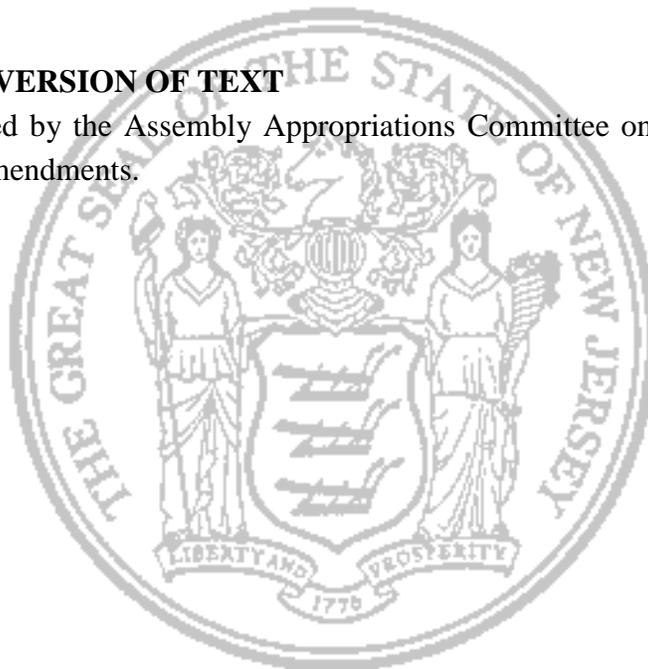
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Donlon and Peterpaul**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows public bodies to continue using newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until certain specified date regardless of format.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on December 16, 2024, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)**

1 AN ACT allowing publication of required public notices and legal  
2 advertisements in certain newspapers for extended period  
3 <sup>1</sup>**[without regard to]** regardless of<sup>1</sup> format.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. <sup>1</sup>a.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or  
9 municipal ordinance to the contrary, a newspaper utilized <sup>1</sup>or  
10 permitted to be utilized<sup>1</sup> by a <sup>1</sup>person for the purpose of complying  
11 with any legal requirement, or a<sup>1</sup> public body, as defined in section  
12 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8),  
13 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for the purpose of  
14 complying with <sup>1</sup>R.S.35:1-2.2 or<sup>1</sup> any <sup>1</sup>other<sup>1</sup> requirements for  
15 issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement,  
16 including <sup>1</sup>, but not limited to,<sup>1</sup> for providing adequate notice of a  
17 meeting, <sup>1</sup>**[and designated as an official newspaper,]** the  
18 solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication  
19 of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents,<sup>1</sup>  
20 shall be deemed eligible for the same purposes from January 1,  
21 2025 to March 1, 2025 <sup>1</sup>**[regardless of physical or digital format**  
22 **for]** if<sup>1</sup> the newspaper's publication <sup>1</sup>is in print or electronic format.  
23 The price to be paid for publishing all public notices or legal  
24 advertisements in print or electronic format as described in this  
25 section shall not exceed the rates established pursuant to R.S.35:2-  
26 1. A fee shall not be charged, and registration shall not be required,  
27 for viewing public notices or legal advertisements published in an  
28 electronic format<sup>1</sup>.

29 <sup>1</sup>b. For the purposes of this section, "electronic format" means  
30 an Internet website and other technology having electrical, digital,  
31 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities  
32 that is operated by or for a newspaper for publication.<sup>1</sup>  
33

34 2. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>**[on December 31, 2024]**  
35 immediately<sup>1</sup>.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 16, 2024.