



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1445

H.P. 1059

House of Representatives, April 11, 2011

### An Act To Provide More Efficient Notice of Public Activities

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HAYES of Buckfield.  
Cosponsored by Representative DUCHESNE of Hudson.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §603** is enacted to read:

3 **§603. Electronic publication of legal notices**

4 Notwithstanding any other section of law, beginning July 1, 2013, a state agency may  
5 not publish in a newspaper any legal notice, legal advertising or any other matter required  
6 by law to be published in a newspaper but instead must post the notice on a publicly  
7 accessible website maintained by the State. Notices must continue to be posted according  
8 to the time frames that exist in law for newspaper publication. For the purposes of this  
9 section, “state agency” means any unit of State Government including any state board or  
10 commission but not including the Legislature, the Judicial Department, the University of  
11 Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime  
12 Academy.

13 **Sec. 2. Report to recommend exemptions.** The Secretary of State and the  
14 Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall jointly examine current  
15 requirements for publication of legal notices in a newspaper and report to the Joint  
16 Standing Committee on State and Local Government. The Secretary of State and the  
17 Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall contact all state agencies,  
18 including all boards and commissions but not including the Legislature, the Judicial  
19 Department, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and  
20 the Maine Maritime Academy, to determine all instances of legal notice publication  
21 requirements existing in the Maine Revised Statutes and request recommendations from  
22 those agencies regarding which notices should continue to be published in a newspaper  
23 after July 1, 2013. The Secretary of State and the Commissioner of Administrative and  
24 Financial Services shall jointly submit a report based on the recommendations from the  
25 State agencies, along with any necessary implementing legislation to the Joint Standing  
26 Committee on State and Local Government by December 15, 2012, and the committee is  
27 authorized to report out legislation to enact those recommendations.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill changes the requirement for public notices to be published in a newspaper.  
30 Beginning July 1, 2013, a state agency may no longer publish a legal notice, legal  
31 advertising or other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper but must  
32 instead post such notices on a publicly accessible website maintained by the State. “State  
33 agency” is defined as any unit of State Government, including any state board or  
34 commission but not including the Legislature, the Judicial Department, the University of  
35 Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime  
36 Academy. The Secretary of State and the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial  
37 Services shall contact all state agencies to determine all instances of legal notice  
38 publication requirements existing in the Maine Revised Statutes and request  
39 recommendations from those agencies regarding which notices should continue to be  
40 published in a newspaper after July 1, 2013. The Secretary of State and the  
41 Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall jointly submit a report  
42 based on the recommendations from the state agencies, along with any necessary

1 implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee of State and Local Government  
2 by December 15, 2012, and the committee is authorized to report out legislation to enact  
3 those recommendations.