



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Daniel Newman

In support of LD 422 *“An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers.”*

March 2, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Representative Daniel Newman of Belgrade, and I have the honor of serving Belgrade, Rome, Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Fayette and New Sharon.

I have been asked to submit this legislation by the town clerk in Belgrade as well as the former town manager. As we all know, most towns are looking at ways to cut overall expenses and with the increase of electronic means of notifying the public of legal notices such as the town’s web page, Facebook and organizations such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors. In addition to the customary ways of advertising and posting physical notices, the town feels it is time to change the mandate to post in newspapers.

I bring LD 422 to you not as a way to eliminate the advertising in newsprint but to allow the municipalities to use this resource as an option if they desire.

The cost of advertising in the newspapers most recently was \$578.00 for 2 days and if the municipalities are required to place advertisements multiple times a year, you can see it runs into a substantial cost to the taxpayers.

I polled about a dozen residents in my town and not one of them said that they read legal notices. The comics seem to get better coverage.

Again, I, along with the town that I represent, do not wish to eliminate the use of newsprint advertisements but just want to have it as an option instead of a mandate. I would encourage you to consider this change.

Thank you.

District 58 Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna & New Sharon