



March 27, 2023

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, I urge you to oppose HB 3392.

This bill would remove the requirement that public notice be published in a newspaper when a government agency, such as a Sheriff's office or the Oregon State Police intends to take and/or sell someone's private property.

We urge your opposition for the following reasons:

1. Placing a provision of sale on a private website is not "Public Notice". The bill allows notice to be listed on ANY website. How would a member of the public even know what website to look at? Government transparency is important, and we believe this provision would allow a government to easily hide such notice if it so chose.
2. Ensuring an independent actor such as a newspaper publishes notices is an important accountability measure. Government should not be allowed to control when and how it notifies the public of its own actions.
3. Notice of government actions by been published in newspapers in this country for entirety of our existence. People of all ages and economic backgrounds know to look for public notices in the newspaper. In fact, some people do not have internet access or do want to use the internet to find such notices.
4. Local newspapers need your support. Local journalism in Oregon is important to your community. Local newspapers provide information not found anywhere else and serve to inform communities and build bonds between community members. The publication of public notices is an important revenue for local newspapers.

5. The House Rules Committee just unanimously passed HB 3167, which strengthens and clarifies how public notices are to be published in newspaper in printed OR electronic format. It makes no sense for the legislature to support and strengthen local journalism in HB 3167 and then turn around and totally undercut local journalism in HB 3392.

Please vote "no" on HB 3392.

Regards,

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