

I oppose SB 437 because it would allow the publication of legal notices in an online “digital format” publication that, in some circumstances,

- Is published only once a month.
- Is not located in the specific city, county, district or jurisdiction that is required to publish its legal notices.
- Has up to 75% of news from or about non-local information.
- Would require a long-term subscription to a digital format publication rather than the purchase of a single issue of a physical print format publication.

While I am very supportive of local print newspapers and I subscribe to a one that publishes legal notices, I also support modernization of legal notice publication with the use of some digital format publications, particularly in areas where there is no physical news format publication.

This bill, however, has too many loopholes to provide productive innovation with legal notice publication. Instead, it would permit the burial of legal notices in non-local and infrequent digital format publications hidden behind paywalls.

I respectfully suggest that the committee recommend to the bill’s sponsor that he rewrite the bill for the future with, at minimum, the following changes:

- Clearly define “local” news.
- Require a digital format news publication to publish 75% local news if it is to host local legal notices.
- Require a digital format news publication to publish at minimum biweekly or twice a month if it is to host local legal notices.
- Require a digital format news publication to have a cost-per-view option rather than a long-term subscription if it is to host local legal notices.

I urge you to oppose SB 437.

And thank you for your work making Oregon a wonderful state!