

**CHAPTER 15**

**STATE PAPER; LEGAL NOTICES**

**SUBCHAPTER 1**

**STATE PAPER**

**§551. Designation of paper**

The Kennebec Journal is the state paper of this State, in which must be published all advertisements, notices and orders required by law to be published in the state paper. [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1973, c. 625, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).

**SUBCHAPTER 2**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**§601. Publication of legal notices and advertising**

To be qualified as a medium for the publication of legal notices, legal advertising and other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper, a newspaper, unless otherwise ordered by the court in the proceedings, must be printed in the English language; must be entered as 2nd class postal matter in the United States mails; and must have general circulation in the vicinity where the notice is required to be published. Any legal notice, legal advertising or other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper must appear in all editions of that newspaper and must appear on any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains in accordance with the requirements of section 603. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (AMD).]

Beginning July 1, 2013, a newspaper publishing legal notices may not charge agencies of the executive branch a rate greater than the rate that the newspaper charges the Legislature to publish legal notices. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1967, c. 428, §1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 667, §1 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 405, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (AMD).

**§602. Additional media for publication of notices**

Notwithstanding section 601, all probate notices, notices of foreclosure, other legal notices, legal advertising and other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper that have been published in the Coastal Journal from the date of its first publication on November 3, 1966 and in the Somerset Gazette from the date of its first publication on April 16, 1990 to June 2, 1993, and that would have been valid but for the provision of section 601 that requires a newspaper carrying such notices to be entered as 2nd class postal matter, are declared to be valid. [RR 1997, c. 2, §2 (COR).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 239, §1 (NEW). RR 1997, c. 2, §2 (COR).

### §603. Electronic notice

**1. Electronic posting of legal notices.** A legal notice appearing in a newspaper pursuant to section 601 must be placed on any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains in the following manner:

- A. The legal notice must be placed on the newspaper's publicly accessible website no later than the same day that it appears in the newspaper; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]
- B. A link to legal notices must be provided on the home page of the newspaper's publicly accessible website; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]
- C. Legal notices appearing on the newspaper's publicly accessible website must be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner and must be of sufficient size to be clearly readable; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]
- D. Legal notices must be the dominant subject matter of the page on the newspaper's publicly accessible website on which they are placed; and [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]
- E. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the newspaper's publicly accessible website must have a search function allowing readers to search legal notices that appear on the website. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

A newspaper may not charge an additional fee for placing a legal notice on the newspaper's publicly accessible website or for submitting a legal notice to the electronic repository established pursuant to subsection 2.

[PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

**2. Statewide repository for legal notices.** Beginning July 1, 2014, a statewide association representing newspapers shall establish and maintain, at its own expense, a publicly accessible electronic repository for any legal notice appearing on a publicly accessible newspaper website in accordance with subsection 1. A newspaper publishing legal notices in accordance with section 601 shall submit the legal notice to the repository.

Beginning July 1, 2014, a newspaper that publishes legal notices in accordance with section 601 shall provide a link to the statewide repository for e-mail notification of any new legal notices added to any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains. E-mail notifications must be sent on the same day that the new legal notice appears on the newspaper's publicly accessible website. A newspaper must prominently display information regarding the ability to receive e-mail notifications from the repository and the process for requesting such notifications on the page of the newspaper's publicly accessible website where legal notices appear. The statewide association representing newspapers that establishes and maintains the publicly accessible electronic repository is responsible for providing e-mail notification of legal notices upon request and at no charge.

[PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 19, §1 (AMD).

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