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State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0463/1 TKK:jld

## **2017 BILL**

1 AN ACT to create 985.075 of the statutes; relating to: information required to

be included in class 2 and class 3 legal notices.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

## The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on Publication of Government Documents and Legal Notices.

BACKGROUND. Under current law, publication of a legal notice may be prescribed as a Class 1, 2, or 3 notice, where the class of notice corresponds to the frequency of required insertions. For example, a Class 2 notice must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks and a Class 3 notice must be published once a week for three consecutive weeks. Generally, when multiple insertions are prescribed, the last insertion must occur at least one week before the act or event to which the notice relates.

THE BILL. The bill allows a municipality the option to publish a summary, instead of publishing any full-text content that may be required under current law, for the second and third insertions that are required for publication of Class 2 and 3 notices, if the summarized notice also indicates that the full-text content may be viewed at the following sources:

1. The newspaper in which the initial insertion of the Class 2 or 3 notice was published.

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- 2. The municipal website.
- 3. The Wisconsin Newspapers Association legal notices website.
- 4. A physical location maintained by the municipality.

The authority to summarize the content of a notice under the bill does not apply

to a legal notice required to be published by a municipality by order of a court.

**SECTION 1.** 985.075 of the statutes is created to read:

985.075 Substance of 2nd and 3rd insertions. (1) In this section,
"summary" means a brief, precise, and plain-language description that can be easily
understood.

 $\mathbf{5}$ (2) Except as provided in sub. (3), when a governing body of a municipality is 6 required by law to publish a legal notice as a class 2 notice or a class 3 notice, the 7 governing body may, for the 2nd and 3rd insertions and in lieu of publishing the full 8 text of the material required to be included in the first insertion of the legal notice, 9 publish a summary of the material included in the first insertion in the same manner 10 in which the first insertion was published. The governing body shall ensure that the 11 summary is accompanied by a notice that the full text of the material included in the first insertion is available for viewing at all of the following locations: 12

13 14 (a) As an electronic document on the governing body's Internet site.

(b) In the newspaper in which the initial insertion was published.

- 15 (c) As an electronic document on the Wisconsin newspapers legal notices16 Internet site.
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(d) In a readily accessible physical location within the municipality.

(3) This section does not apply to a legal notice required to be published by amunicipality by order of a court.

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(END)