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## What They're Saying: "We can maintain government transparency and save property taxpayers' money by allowing for free Internet postings of legal notices on town and county websites to replace paid newspaper publication requirements."

Saturday, December 17, 2016

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

**Senator Sam Thompson:** "We can maintain government transparency and save property taxpayers' money by allowing for free Internet postings of legal notices on town and county websites to replace paid newspaper publication requirements. I have never once read a published legal notice in a newspaper, and I'm willing to bet that most New Jerseyans haven't either. It's an archaic requirement that must be updated for the Internet age." (Press Release, 12/15/16)

**New Jersey State League Of Municipalities, New Jersey School Board Association, New Jersey Association Of Counties, New Jersey Conference Of Mayors:** "Our non-partisan coalition, which represents school districts, municipalities, and county governments across the State, supports this important and timely legislation as it will provide mayors, school board members, and freeholders with an innovative resource to help deliver essential services in a cost effective manner." (Memorandum, 12/16/16)

"As local governing bodies continue to struggle with a restrictive property tax cap, a declining ratable base, and both underfunded and unfunded State mandates, this permissive legislation will streamline an antiquated process and replace it with a more contemporary method for advertising legal notices that will save valuable taxpayer dollars.

"In general, current law requires local purchasing officials, clerks, planning departments, improvement authorities, and several others to publish onerous legal notices in various newspaper publications. Such notices typically include contract awards, contract addendums, various legal notices, meeting notices, RFP and RFQ notices, election notices, and much more. Public officials have long decried that publishing these voluminous documents in newspapers is costly, time consuming, and outdated. With this mind, we commend the sponsors for their vision and leadership in sponsoring this long-overdue legislation"

**Senator Gerry Cardinale:** "The press is reporting this legislation as some kind of retribution against the media by Governor Christie, but nothing could be farther from the truth." (Press Release, 12/15/16)

"I've been trying for more than 16 years to try to pass this bill that would save property taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. The press has been very effective at using their platform to strong-arm legislators into continuing this unnecessary and expensive corporate welfare. If any other industry received this kind of favoritism at property taxpayers' expense, editorial page writers would be the first to call for reform."

"When local governments started creating their own websites in the 1990s, it quickly became clear that paying for expensive newspaper placements was no longer necessary when public notices could be posted on their own sites for free.

"Republicans and Democrats have introduced and talked about passing this common-sense legislation regardless of which party was in power for more than 15 years. It's time has come."

**Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll:** "Legal ads are corporate welfare for newspapers that cost taxpayers and businesses \$80 million annually. For over a decade various members of the Legislature from both political parties have proposed making this change." (Press Release, 12/15/16)

"The sooner this costly requirement is eliminated, the better."

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**Mullica Township Mayor Jim Brown:** "I fully support the Governor's Bill that pertains to Legal Notices. Mullica Township is a small township with revenue shrinking each year..Any expense dollars we can save is a plus for us." (Statement, 12/16/16)

**Woodbine Mayor William Pikolycky and Former President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors:** "For decades the legislature has debated allowing municipalities to save millions of dollars annually by posting legal notices online rather than paying for expensive print advertisements. I commend Governor Christie for his leadership in providing tax relief for small communities like ours and would encourage all legislators to join him in bringing government into the 21st century." (Statement, 12/16/16)

**Hatworth Mayor John Smart:** "Our residents have adopted new technology to improve their lives, their businesses, and the way they share information with family and friends and can't understand why their government still uses archaic and high cost tools to inform the public. This legislation puts us on the right track to be more transparent, timely, and efficient in keeping people informed, and at lower cost." (Statement, 12/17/2016)

**Bedminster Mayor Steven Parker:** "I am always supportive of opportunities for municipalities to use modern technologies to save money. This bill would do just that, and help ease the property tax burden for my residents, and residents all across the state." (Statement, 12/17/16)

**Downe Township Mayor Robert G. Campbell:** "[S-2855] will be an obvious public benefit to reduce the costs for legal advertising to municipalities throughout the state." (Statement, 12/16/16)

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