

FEB 07 2011



Senate of Pennsylvania

February 7, 2010

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Robert D. Robbins *RDR*
SUBJECT: Invitation for Co-Sponsorship
Legal Notices

In the near future, I will be introducing two separate pieces of legislation that address how local governments advertise their legal notices.

The first bill will be an updated version of Senate Bill 419 the "Public Notice Modernization Act." This legislation would permit any county, municipality, school district or local authority to electronically publish legal notices on the internet in lieu of newspaper advertisement as is currently required by law.

This updated version includes several new provisions that I believe greatly enhances the legislation. Some of the changes include:

- 1) Adds sheriff's sales under the definition of a legal notice.
- 2) Requires a one-time \$100 fee paid by the local government to the Governor's Center for Local Government Services within DCED to assist with setting up a webpage that will list all local governments posting legal notices online.
- 3) Requires a local government to send a copy of the legal notice by fax or first class mail to at least one newspaper of general circulation. However, the local government is under no obligation to pay for the printing of the legal notice in the newspaper.
- 4) Requires a local government to create an email notification system where interested citizens will be able to sign up to receive an electronic copy of the legal notice.

The second bill will be similar to the above mentioned Public Notice Modernization Act with one major difference. This legislation requires that any local government that opts to electronically publish their legal notices shall place a brief description of the legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation. The reader will be informed to visit the local government's notice website to view the full legal notice.

If you wish to join me in co-sponsoring either bill, please contact my office at 787-1322 or email Chris Yniguez at cyniguez@pasen.gov by February 17, 2011.