
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1026 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO AND BOSCOLA, DECEMBER 5, 2015

REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECEMBER 5, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 45 (Legal Notices) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further
3 providing for definitions; and, in legal advertising,
4 providing for use of community papers of mass dissemination.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 101(a) of Title 45 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

9 § 101. Definitions.

10 (a) Definitions applicable to printing or newspaper
11 advertising laws.--Subject to additional definitions contained
12 in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to
13 specific provisions of this title, the following words and
14 phrases when used in:

15 (1) this title; or

16 (2) any other law relating to printing or newspaper
17 advertising;

18 shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
19 meanings given to them in this subsection:

1 * * *

2 "Community paper of mass dissemination." A printed paper or
3 publication that:

4 (1) bears a title or name, and conveys reading or
5 pictorial intelligence of passing events, local or general
6 happenings, prints regularly or irregularly editorial
7 comment, announcements, miscellaneous reading matter,
8 commercial advertising, classified advertising, legal
9 advertising and other notices, and has been issued in numbers
10 of four or more pages at short intervals, either daily, twice
11 or more often each week, or weekly, continuously during a
12 period of at least six months, or as the successor of the
13 printed paper or publication issued during an immediate prior
14 period of at least six months, and has been circulated and
15 distributed from an established place of business to the
16 community at large. For purposes of this paragraph,
17 continuous publication is not deemed interrupted by an
18 involuntary suspension of publication resulting from loss,
19 destruction, failure or unavailability of operating
20 facilities, equipment or personnel from whatever cause, and a
21 community paper of mass distribution so affected is not
22 disqualified from publishing official and legal advertising
23 in the event the publication is resumed within one week after
24 it again becomes possible; or

25 (2) meets the criteria under paragraph (1) and:

26 (i) is distributed through the United States mail to
27 entire local zip codes; or

28 (ii) is distributed by carriers to the majority of
29 established addresses, or be widely available at
30 numerous, widely visited public locations within the

1 political subdivision effecting the advertising and has
2 the distribution independently verified by an accredited
3 auditor of circulations.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Title 45 is amended by adding a section to read:

6 § 311. Use of community papers of mass dissemination.

7 (a) Authority of government.--At its discretion, a
8 government unit may authorize publication in a community paper
9 of mass dissemination in substitution of publication in a
10 newspaper of general circulation.

11 (b) Construction.--This section shall not alter or affect
12 the obligation to publish a legal notice in a legal newspaper.

13 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.