

HOUSE No. 2098

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to access to local journalism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2098

By Representative Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2098) of Alice Hanlon Peisch, Carmine Lawrence Gentile and Kenneth I. Gordon relative to legal notices required to be published in newspapers by cities and towns. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to access to local journalism.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 13 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
2 inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3 (e) A municipality required by a statute, ordinance, by-law or judicial order to publish a
4 legal notice in a newspaper or newspaper of general circulation may also publish the legal notice
5 on a community news website. For purposes of this paragraph, “community news website” shall
6 mean a website substantially all of which is dedicated to local news coverage for the relevant
7 municipality and surrounding municipalities that receives an average of not less than 1,500
8 unique visits per month. This requirement shall not apply to a municipality for which a
9 community news website does not exist. Furthermore, this requirement shall not apply to a
10 municipality in which a local newspaper operates with over fifty percent of residents subscribing
11 to said local newspaper.