

HOUSE No. 1632

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Leigh Davis and Michelle L. Badger

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 legal advertisements in online-only newspapers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Leigh Davis</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Michelle L. Badger</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>6/2/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>6/17/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>6/3/2025</i>
<i>Steven J. Ouellette</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>7/25/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1632

By Representatives Davis of Great Barrington and Badger of Plymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1632) of Leigh Davis relative to legal advertisements in online-only newspapers. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1723 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to legal advertisements in online-only newspapers.

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 1. Subsection (b) of section 13 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Provided
3 further, that for an online-only newspaper that does not maintain a print publication, publication
4 on its own website and on a statewide website shall satisfy the publication requirement.

5 SECTION 2. Subsection (d) of said section 13 of said chapter 4, as so appearing, is
6 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- For an online-only newspaper, an error in a
7 legal notice published on the online-only newspaper's website or the statewide website that is the
8 result of (1) an error of the website operator; or (2) a temporary website outage or service
9 interruption that prevents the publication or display of a legal notice on the website, shall not
10 constitute a defect in publication of the legal notice; provided, however, that the legal notice

- 11 appears correctly on either the online-only newspaper's website or the statewide website, and
- 12 satisfies all other legal notice requirements.