

HOUSE No.

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 local journalism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative 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 1. The definition of “community news website” in subsection (b) of section 13
2 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended
3 by adding the following sentence: - a website that has a newsletter subscription which serves at
4 least fifteen per of the municipality's households.

5 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 13 of chapter 4 of the General
6 Laws, a municipality and its public schools, their subdivisions, committees, boards, commissions
7 or offices which are required by statute, ordinance, by-law or judicial order to publish a legal
8 notice in a newspaper or newspaper of general circulation, may meet such requirement through 1
9 or more of the following means:

- 10 (i) a print newspaper of local or general circulation;
- 11 (ii) the website of a print newspaper of local or general circulation;

12 (iii) a community news website that satisfies all criteria for digital publication as
13 set forth in subsection (c) (i)-(iii) of said section 13 of said chapter 4;

14 (iv) a statewide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices.

15 SECTION 3. Nothing set forth in this act shall be construed to alter or amend the
16 requirement that a municipality publish legal notices on its municipal website.

17 SECTION 4. Nothing set forth in this act shall be construed to alter or amend the time or
18 timing of publication of legal notices set forth in the General Laws.

19 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.