

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.4313

**Title:** An Act allowing "print-free" digital legal notices for the town of North Brookfield

**Sponsor:** Rep. Donald Berthiaume

**Committee:** Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** 8/14/25 9:00 AM – 8/21/25 5:00 PM

**Current Law:**

Subsection (b) of Section 13 of Chapter 4 of the Massachusetts General Laws states that any entity required to publish a legal notice must do so through a local newspaper's print publication, website, and a website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices.

**Summary:**

H.4313 states that any entity within North Brookfield that is required to post a legal notice in a newspaper or a newspaper of general circulation may use an alternative and online means of posting such notice may be used if approved by a majority vote of the public body or at the discretion of the municipal official legally required to post such notice.

Such a requirement may be satisfied by using one or more of the following methods:

- (a) print newspaper of local or general circulation;
- (b) on a newspaper's website;
- (c) on websites that report local news and opinion that satisfy all criteria for digital publication as enumerated in Section 13(b) of Chapter 4;
- (d) on a website maintained as a statewide repository for such notices; or
- (e) on an official town website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices.

This act would not alter or amend the timing requirements of the publication of legal notices set forth in the Massachusetts General Laws, bylaw, or judicial order.

The act would take effect immediately upon passage.

**Notes:** Approved as Article 15 at the June 13, 2025 Annual Town Meeting; majority vote.