

HOUSE MEMORIAL 133

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO STUDY THE COSTS, BENEFITS, EFFECTIVENESS AND VARIETY OF AVAILABLE APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES.

WHEREAS, publication of legal notices is a necessary step in providing members of the public with information about those matters that are required to be published in accordance with New Mexico statutes; and

WHEREAS, it is now traditional to require publication of legal notices in newspapers of general or local circulation for multiple weeks to provide adequate time for the public to read the notice; and

WHEREAS, the world of media is now in a period of rapid transition and many newspapers of general circulation are

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1 ceasing to publish hard copies of their papers and, if not
2 going out of business altogether, are opting to publish their
3 papers on the internet and make them available on a
4 subscription basis only; and

5 WHEREAS, many members of the public have shifted to
6 obtaining news about world, national or local events from
7 terrestrial radio and television broadcasters or on the
8 internet through news services or on blogs or web pages of
9 commentators; and

10 WHEREAS, as when newspapers were first published, there
11 were newspapers in many small communities, but now there are
12 many small communities in which no local paper is published,
13 and if more regional newspapers cease circulation, there will
14 again be no publication available in which to publish legal
15 notices that remain essential to an informed populace and to
16 fulfill many statutory publication mandates; and

17 WHEREAS, it is necessary to adjust to the changing
18 availability of media, and finding a cost-effective means for
19 persons to give legal notice that is readily available and
20 accessible for people who should receive the notice will
21 require study to determine the best manner to make a transition
22 to new media modalities in a way that remains flexible so that
23 as even newer methods of mass communication are devised,
24 persons required to give legal notice will have the flexibility
25 to use those modalities;

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