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## DIGEST

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HB 997 Original

2026 Regular Session

Edmonston

**Abstract:** To authorize certain political subdivisions to select a newspaper or its official website as its official journal.

Present law (R.S. 43:141) provides that a police jury, city and parish council, municipal corporation, and a school board in all of the parishes, except in Orleans Parish, shall select a newspaper as the their official journal at their first meeting in June of each year. Provides that in any parish that is divided by the Mississippi River and has a population of not less than 100,000 the governing body shall have the authority to select two official journals for their respective parishes, one of which shall be located on one bank of the river and the other on the opposite side of the bank.

Proposed law provides that a police jury, city and parish council, municipal corporation, and school board in all of the parishes, except in Orleans Parish, shall select a newspaper or its official website as its official journal. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides that if a police jury, city or parish council, municipal corporation, or school board selects its official website as its official journal, it may also publish in a newspaper a copy of the official proceedings and public notices that it is required to publish in its official journal.

Present law (R.S. 43:145) provides that municipal corporations shall select an official journal published in an office physically located within their municipal boundaries if a newspaper is published therein. Provides if no qualified newspaper is published within the municipal boundaries, a newspaper published in the parish of the municipal corporation shall be selected.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that present law applies if the municipal corporation has selected a newspaper as its official journal.

Present law (R.S. 43:150) provides that at least 30 days after effecting any change in its official journal, each parish, municipality, and school board shall file with the secretary of state the name and address of its official journal, the effective date of the selection, and the period for which the selection is effective. Provides the official journal on file with the secretary of state shall be the official journal of the parish, municipality, or school board.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if a parish, municipality, or school board selects its official website as its official journal, the web address shall be provided to the secretary of state.

Present law (R.S. 43:171) provides that levee, drainage, subdrainage, road, subroad, navigation, and

sewage districts, or other political subdivisions of the state and parishes shall have the proceedings of their board and financial statements, required by and furnished to the legislative auditor, published in a newspaper. Provides that the newspaper shall be selected at the first meeting of the political subdivision in June of each year for a term of one year. Further provides for the requirements for the selection of the newspaper. Provides for the selection of a newspaper if there is no newspaper published in the district, political subdivision, or parish.

Proposed law provides that levee, drainage, subdrainage, road, subroad, navigation, and sewage districts, or other political subdivisions of the state and parishes shall select a newspaper or its official website as the official journal for the political subdivision. Provides that the official journal shall be selected at the first meeting of the political subdivision in June of each year for a term of one year. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides that if a levee, drainage, subdrainage, road, subroad, navigation, or sewerage district, or other political subdivision selects its official website as its official journal, it may also publish in a newspaper a copy of the official proceedings and public notices that it is required to publish in its official journal.

(Amends R.S. 43:141(A), 145, 150, and 171(A)(1) and (2)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 43:141(C) and 171(A)(4))