

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 481

BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER

PUBLIC PRINTING: Provides for the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 43:147.1(B)(1) and (2) and to enact R.S. 43:147.1(D), relative
3 to official journals of parishes, municipalities, and school boards; to provide relative
4 to the publication of public notices and proceedings; to provide with respect to
5 compensation for printing; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 43:147.1(B)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
9 43:147.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §147.1. Compensation for printing; per character

11 * * *

12 B.(1) In all parishes that do not contain a city with a population of more than
13 one hundred thousand, the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices
14 shall not exceed the rate of ~~one and one-half~~ three cents per character. When the
15 insertion contains material to be set in tabular form or is submitted prebuilt, the rate
16 will be computed at two dollars seventy-six cents per square inch based on six-point
17 type and six-point font. If the notice is set in larger type or font, the rate shall be
18 prorated. Regardless of the size of type the notice is set in, the rates specified in this
19 Paragraph are based on a printable space of one-inch-high and one-inch-wide

1 column. If the page width is either wider or narrower for a single column, the rate
2 per column shall be prorated.

3 (2) In all parishes that contain a city with a population of more than one
4 hundred thousand, the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall
5 not exceed the rate of ~~two~~ three cents per character. When the insertion contains
6 material to be set in tabular form or is submitted prebuilt, the rate will be computed
7 at three dollars ninety-six cents per square inch based on six-point type and six-point
8 font. If the notice is set in larger type or font, the rate shall be prorated. Regardless
9 of the size of type the notice is set in, the rates specified in this Paragraph are based
10 on a printable space of one-inch-high and one-inch-wide column. If the page width
11 is either wider or narrower for a single column, the rate per column shall be prorated.

12 * * *

13 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraphs (B)(1) and (B)(2) of this
14 Section, the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not
15 exceed the lesser of the rates provided for in Paragraphs (B)(1) and (B)(2) of this
16 Section or the rate in effect on January 1, 2026.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 481 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Riser

Abstract: Provides for compensation for publication of official proceedings and public notices.

Present law authorizes parishes, municipalities, and school boards to publish their official proceedings and public notices by contract. Provides that payment may be made monthly or quarterly.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 43:147.1) provides for maximum rates based on price per character, unless parties agree to a higher rate. Provides that "character" does not include spaces, letting, or kerning. Provides that the maximum rate is two cents per character if the parish has a city with a population of more than 100,000 and one and one-half cents per character if the parish does not have a city with a population of more than 100,000.

Proposed law increases the maximum rates based on price per character. Provides that the maximum rate is three cents per character in all parishes.

Present law (R.S. 43:147) provides for maximum rates that an official journal may charge generally as follows:

- (1) \$6 per square of 100 words in parishes that do not contain a city with a population greater than 100,000.
- (2) \$.33 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population of greater than 100,000 but no city with a population greater than 300,000.
- (3) \$.37 per agate line in parishes that contain a city with a population greater than 300,000.

Present law (R.S. 43:147.2) provides that from Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2026, a journal may submit a bid pursuant to present law (R.S. 43:147) or present law (R.S. 43:147.1) or both, at the journal's option. Provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2027, a journal shall submit bids pursuant to present law (R.S. 43:147.1), unless the governing body requests otherwise.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the lesser of the rates provided for in proposed law or the rate in effect on January 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 43:147.1(B)(1) and(2); Adds R.S. 43:147.1(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add provisions providing that the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the lesser of the rates provided for in proposed law or the rate in effect on January 1, 2026.
2. Remove provision that requires parishes, municipalities, and school boards to publish official proceedings and public notices by contract.
3. Make technical changes.