
DIGEST

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HB 112 Original

2016 Regular Session

Pugh

Abstract: Changes the criteria for a newspaper to be selected as a municipal official journal in certain circumstances.

Present law requires each parish, municipality, and school board, Orleans Parish excepted, to select a newspaper as its official journal. Defines "newspaper" as a publication that during each year of the five-year period prior to its selection meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Has been published at regular intervals of not less than weekly.
- (2) Originated and was published for the purpose of delivering news of general public interest and is not devoted to the interests or entertainment of any one particular group or class.
- (3) In more than half of its issues, contained less than 75% advertising.
- (4) Maintained a general paid circulation to paying subscribers within the publication area required.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires each municipality to select an official journal that is published in an office physically located within its municipal boundaries if a newspaper as defined in present law is published within its boundaries. Additionally provides that if no qualified newspaper is published within the municipal boundaries, a newspaper published in the parish in which the municipality is located which meets the requirements of a present law must be selected.

Proposed law instead requires a municipality to select an official journal published in an office physically located within its municipal boundaries if two or more publications that meet the present law definition of "newspaper" are published within its boundaries. Provides that if fewer than two publications that meet the present law definition of "newspaper" are published within the municipal boundaries, a municipality must select, as its official journal, a publication that meets the present law definition of "newspaper" and is published in the parish in which the municipality is located.

(Amends R.S. 43:145)