

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 504
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/9/13

Short Title: Local Electronic Notice.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW GOVERNING BOARDS OF CERTAIN COUNTIES, AND ALL MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES, TO GIVE ELECTRONIC NOTICE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Article 4 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 153A-52.2. Electronic notice.

(a) Except as provided in this section, the governing board may adopt an ordinance providing that any notice it is required by law to publish or advertise, whether under G.S. 1-597, under Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, under any other general law, or under any local act, may be published electronically as provided by this section in lieu of or in addition to the required publication or advertisement. The ordinance may cover all notices required to be published or advertised or a selected class or classes of notice.

(b) Upon adoption of an ordinance under subsection (a) of this section, the governing board shall publish specific instructions as to how to access all notices published under an ordinance adopted pursuant to this section at least once a month for 12 months in a newspaper having a general circulation for that jurisdiction as provided in G.S. 1-597.

(c) Any notice published under an ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall comply with all of the following:

- (1) The notice is published on the Web site of the governing board no later than the time that publication is required under the applicable statute or local act.
- (2) The Web site contains on its main or index page links to all notices or a link to another page with links to all notices.
- (3) Notices and links to all notices on the Web site must be maintained on that Web site for at least one year after publication.
- (4) A copy of the notice must be filed in a notice book maintained separate and apart from the ordinance book or minutes of the governing board. The notice book shall be appropriately indexed and maintained for public inspection in the office of the clerk or with some other person designated by the governing board.
- (5) A copy of the notice must be mailed or e-mailed to a person that has filed a written request for notice with the clerk or secretary of the governing board or with some other person designated by the governing board. The governing board may require each person submitting a written request for notice to renew the request annually.



1 (d) Ordinances adopted pursuant to this section may not supersede any general law or
2 local act that requires notice by mail to certain persons or classes of persons or the posting of
3 signs on certain property.

4 (e) The ordinance adopted by the county may control notice given by any board
5 appointed by the governing board of the county, including the board of social services and
6 board of health.

7 (f) If a city does not maintain its own Web site, it may employ the notice option
8 provided by subsection (a) of this section by submitting a request to a county or counties in
9 which the city is located to post such notice in a prominent location on a Web site that is
10 maintained by the county or counties. Any city that elects to provide such notice shall make its
11 request to the county or counties at least 15 days prior to the date of the required notice.

12 (g) For purposes of this section, "governing body" means the body elected or appointed
13 as the board of county commissioners, city council, or county board of elections."

14 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 5 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by
15 adding a new section to read:

16 **"§ 160A-81.2. Electronic notice.**

17 A city may adopt an ordinance under G.S. 153A-52.2 to provide for electronic notice."

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 160A-1(7) reads as rewritten:

19 (7) "Publish," "publication," and other forms of the verb "to publish" mean
20 insertion in a newspaper qualified under G.S. 1-597 to publish legal
21 advertisements in the county or counties in which the city is ~~located~~ located
22 or electronic notice as provided in G.S. 153A-52.2 if an ordinance has been
23 adopted by the governing board."

24 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 153A-1(6) reads as rewritten:

25 (6) "Publish," "publication," and other forms of the verb "to publish" mean
26 insertion in a newspaper qualified under G.S. 1-597 to publish legal
27 advertisements in the ~~county~~ county or electronic notice as provided in
28 G.S. 153A-52.2 if an ordinance has been adopted by the governing board."

29 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 159-1(b)(5) reads as rewritten:

30 (5) "Publish," "publication," and other forms of the word "publish" mean
31 insertion in a newspaper qualified under G.S. 1-597 to publish legal
32 ~~advertisements~~ advertisements or electronic notice as provided in
33 G.S. 153A-52.2 if an ordinance has been adopted by that governing board."

34 **SECTION 5.** G.S.163-33(8) reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 163-33. Powers and duties of county boards of elections.**

36 The county boards of elections within their respective jurisdictions shall exercise all powers
37 granted to such boards in this Chapter, and they shall perform all the duties imposed upon them
38 by law, which shall include the following:

39 ...

40 (8) To provide for the issuance of all notices, advertisements, and publications
41 concerning elections required by law. If the election is on a State bond issue,
42 an amendment to the Constitution, or approval of an act submitted to the
43 voters of the State, the State Board of Elections shall reimburse the county
44 boards of elections for their reasonable additional costs in placing such
45 notices, advertisements, and publications. In addition, the county board of
46 elections shall give notice at least 20 days prior to the date on which the
47 registration books or records are closed that there will be a primary, general
48 or special election, the date on which it will be held, and the hours the voting
49 places will be open for voting in that election. The notice also shall describe
50 the nature and type of election, and the issues, if any, to be submitted to the
51 voters at that election. Notice shall be given by advertisement at least once

1 weekly during the 20-day period in a newspaper having general circulation
2 in the county and by posting a copy of the notice at the courthouse door.
3 Notice may additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but
4 such notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice.
5 This subdivision shall not apply in the case of bond elections called under
6 the provisions of Chapter 159. The county board may adopt a policy under
7 G.S. 153A-52.2 to provide for notices, advertisements, and publications to
8 be given electronically.

9"

10 **SECTION 6.** This act applies only to the counties of Buncombe, Forsyth, Gaston,
11 Mitchell, Moore, Perquimans, Stanly, Surry, and Watauga and any municipality located wholly
12 within those counties, and to the City of Raleigh and the Town of Zebulon.

13 **SECTION 7.(a)** Effective October 1, 2016, Section 6 of this act reads as rewritten:

14 "SECTION 6. This act applies only to the counties of Buncombe, Forsyth, Gaston,
15 Mitchell, Henderson, Perquimans, Stanly, Surry, and Watauga and any municipality located
16 wholly within those counties, and to the City of Raleigh and the Town of Zebulon."

17 **SECTION 7.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2016, and applies to
18 notices given on or after that date by Henderson County or city located wholly within
19 Henderson County.

20 **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013, and applies to notices
21 given on or after that date by a county or city.