

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE
Mar 26, 2015
S.B. 518
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE DRS25131-LR-89 (03/12)

Short Title: Broader Publication of Legal Notices. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator B. Jackson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT RELATING TO THE REGULATIONS FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF
3 LEGAL NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 1-597 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 1-597. Regulations for newspaper publication of legal notices, advertisements, etc.

7 Whenever a notice or any other paper, document or legal advertisement of any kind or
8 description shall be authorized or required by any of the laws of the State of North Carolina,
9 heretofore or hereafter enacted, or by any order or judgment of any court of this State to be
10 published or advertised in a newspaper, such publication, advertisement or notice shall be of no
11 force and effect unless it shall be published in a newspaper with a general circulation to actual
12 paid-subscribers which newspaper at the time of such publication, advertisement or notice, shall
13 have been admitted to the United States mails in the Periodicals class in the county or political
14 subdivision where such publication, advertisement or notice is required to be published, and
15 which shall have been regularly and continuously issued in the county in which the publication,
16 advertisement or notice is authorized or required to be published, at least one day in each
17 calendar week for at least 25 of the 26 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date of the
18 first publication of such advertisement, publication or notice; provided that in the event that a
19 newspaper otherwise meeting the qualifications and having the characteristics prescribed by
20 G.S. 1-597 to 1-599, should fail for a period not exceeding four weeks in any calendar year to
21 publish one or more of its issues such newspaper shall nevertheless be deemed to have
22 complied with the requirements of regularity and continuity of publication prescribed herein.
23 Provided further, that where any city or town is located in two or more adjoining counties, any
24 newspaper published in such city or town shall, for the purposes of G.S. 1-597 to 1-599, be
25 deemed to be admitted to the mails, issued and published in all such counties in which such
26 town or city of publication is located, and every publication, advertisement or notice required to
27 be published in any such city or town or in any of the counties where such city or town is
28 located shall be valid if published in a newspaper published, issued and admitted to the mails
29 anywhere within any such city or town, regardless of whether the newspaper's plant or the post
30 office where the newspaper is admitted to the mails is in such county or not, if the newspaper
31 otherwise meets the qualifications and requirements of G.S. 1-597 to 1-599. This provision
32 shall be retroactive to May 1, 1940, and all publications, advertisements and notices published
33 in accordance with this provision since May 1, 1940, are hereby validated.

34 Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 1-599, whenever a notice or any other paper,
35 document or legal advertisement of any kind or description shall be authorized or required by
36 any of the laws of the State of North Carolina, heretofore or hereafter enacted, or by any order



1 or judgment of any court of this State to be published or advertised in a newspaper qualified for
2 legal advertising in a county and there is no newspaper qualified for legal advertising as
3 defined in this section in such county, then it shall be deemed sufficient compliance with such
4 laws, order or judgment by publication of such notice or any other such paper, document or
5 legal advertisement of any kind or description in a newspaper published in an adjoining county
6 or in a county within the same district court district as defined in G.S. 7A-133 or superior court
7 district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1, as the case may be; provided, if the clerk
8 of the superior court finds as a fact that such newspaper otherwise meets the requirements of
9 this section and has a general circulation in such county where no newspaper is published
10 meeting the requirements of this section."

11 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to legal notices
12 and advertisements published on or after that date.