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Bill passes allowing online publication of legal notices

By: Associated Press in The MILW Blog December 5, 2014

LANSING (AP) The Michigan House has approved legislation letting local governments publish public notices online instead of in newspapers.

The bill passed Dec. 4 on a 62-47 vote and now goes to the Senate.

The changes would take place over 10 years. Legal notices could be posted in more places — TV and radio station websites as well as government websites.

Up to 250 laws require municipalities to publish advance notice of meetings, ordinances, assessments and rezoning proposals.

Local officials say running legal notices in daily and weekly papers costs too much money. Broadcasters say the bill would allow them to business for the business that now goes to newspapers.

Newspapers say they fear lost revenue and say there'd be less government transparency if notices are only posted online.

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