**Illinois Governor signs landmark Public Notice legislation**

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Gov. Pat Quinn yesterday (July 21, 2010) signed House Bill 5232, which will require newspapers that accept legal notices to upload the notices to a statewide website collectively owned by the newspapers beginning in December 2012. This legislation was sponsored by the Illinois Press Association.

About 80 percent of Illinois’ newspapers already upload to PublicNoticeIllinois.com, which is owned by the Illinois Press Association.

The bill passed unanimously through both chambers of the legislature this past session – 111-0 in the House on March 18 and 53-0 in the Senate on April 27. Rep. John Bradley, D-Marion, sponsored the bill in the House while Sen. Kwame Raoul, D-Chicago, was the Senate sponsor.

Dennis DeRossett, executive director of the IPA, said the bill resolves a recurring issue of how the Internet should be utilized in regard to public notices. “The IPA has invested a lot of time and money to provide a statewide, electronic repository for public notices at no cost to taxpayers,” DeRossett said. “We thank Gov. Quinn and the Illinois Legislature for their support in recognizing PublicNoticeIllinois.com as the best solution for an online public notice presence.”

Taxpayers are able to search for public notices by keyword, by newspaper and by county – all in one online location. “We will be working with our members to make sure all newspapers are in compliance with the new law by the effective date,” DeRossett said. A timeline and implementation schedule is being developed and will be presented to the IPA board of directors at its September meeting.