

The proposed legislation seeks to do away with all of this. It would allow units of local government to post public notices on their own websites and not require newspaper publication. The bill would repeal the placement of public notices on one searchable statewide online database and result in public notices being scattered across more than 8,000 online locations.

Not one of you would make the effort to routinely check even the local government websites

to see what your elected officials are up to. This bill takes 10 steps backward when it comes

to good government. It eliminates a very important tool when it comes to helping the

private sector monitor what the public sector is doing.

<u>PublicNoticeIllinois.com</u> is the sole online location for every public notice published in

additional cost to government.

newspapers around the state.

over government.

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to post the information online.

online. Over and over again it has been shown that many local governments blatantly disregard the law when it comes to these postings. An audit by the Citizens Advocacy Center studied over 750 public body websites in Illinois.

The results showed a digital disaster where local governments are required by law (5 ILCS

What's worse, government has a terrible track record when it comes to posting information

Only 73 percent complied with posting a basic notice of upcoming meetings. Just 57 percent complied with posting proposed meeting agendas and less than half (48 percent) complied with posting approved meeting minutes.

these notices are one of a number of revenue streams that support newspapers. But we and many other newspapers have already worked with local government to provide rates that

The results would be no different if more posting requirements were added.

120/2.02, Open Meetings Act) to post information on their websites.

are sometimes lower than those allowed by law and in my mind the public oversight issue far outweighs any savings that might be realized. The amount governments would save is insignificant in terms of their overall budgets. For many newspapers in small towns across the state, public notices are a far more significant percentage of their revenue. Taking them away could result in newspapers going out of business and with them any source of local news and reporters to serve as watchdog

One argument in favor of the bill is that it would save governments money. It is true that

to keep residents apprised of government actions that affects their lives, jobs, schools and homes. Every other state still requires notification of certain government actions be published in the newspaper. In 2009, Utah passed legislation to take public notices out of newspapers

Elsewhere it could result in fewer reporters to keep tabs on the actions of local officials and

When local governments want to get news out to constituents, they don't bury it somewhere on a website -- they take it to the media. We are a proven and dependable source of information that taxpayers rely on.

There are a lot of reasons this legislation is just bad public policy. We need more

8+1 < 0

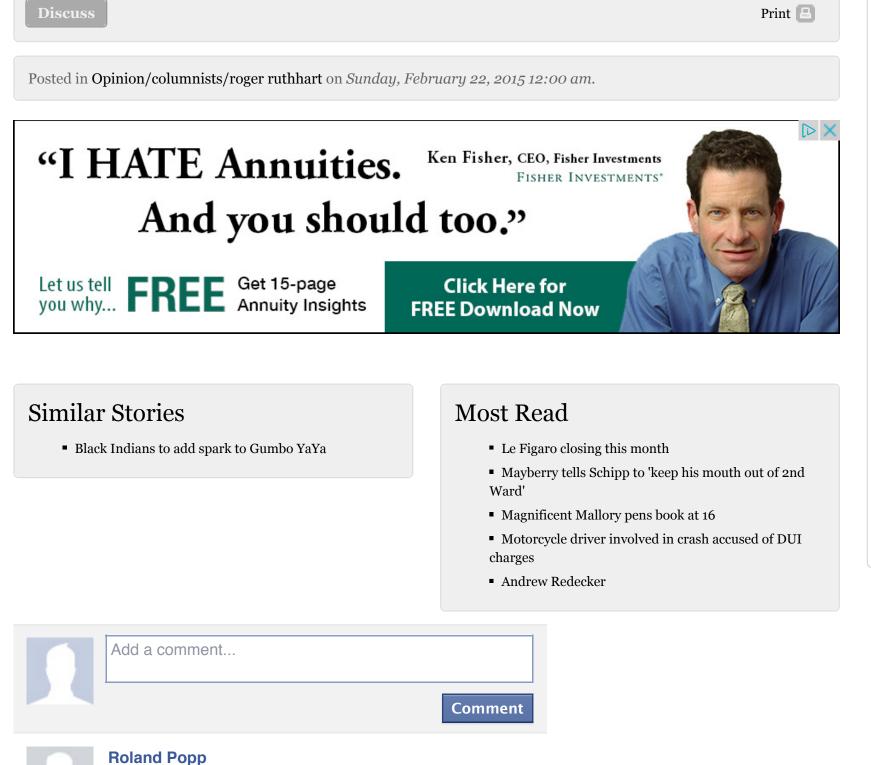
and in 2011 it was repealed because, just like in Illinois, local governments routinely failed

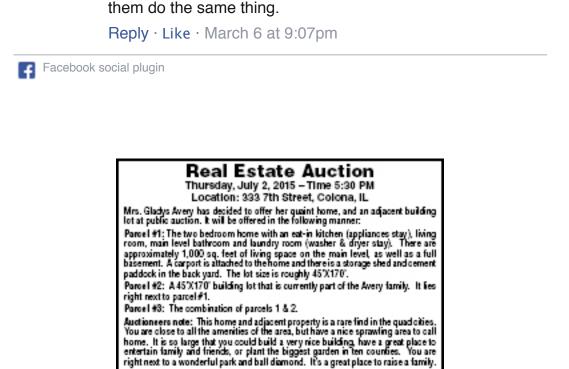
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transparent local government, not less. State representatives and senators need to keep the

actions of local government out in the open and not support this bad government proposal.





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It seems like our Government officials are getting harder

to speak to one on one. You can't ask questions, and you

less control, except to vote different ones in, only to have

sure don't many answers. This is both parties. Our officials are getting further away from us, and we have



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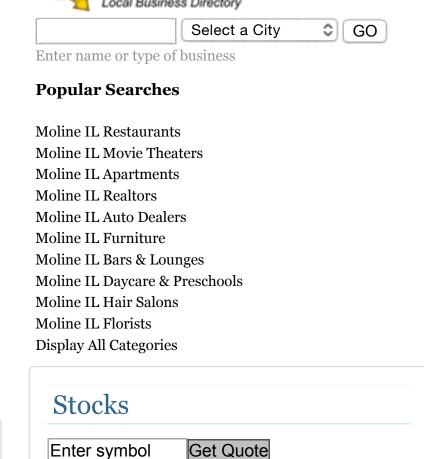
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