

By: Representatives Barnett, Karriem

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 598

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-7-65, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE FEE SCHEDULES CHARGED FOR PUBLISHING DOCUMENTS IN A
3 NEWSPAPER ON BEHALF OF A PUBLIC BODY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-7-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 25-7-65. Printers and publishers shall be entitled to the
8 following fees:

9 (a) (i) For publishing in a newspaper any summons,
10 order, citation, advertisement or notice required by law to be
11 published in a newspaper on behalf of a public body, Twelve Cents
12 (12¢) for each word it contains for the first insertion, and Ten
13 Cents (10¢) for each of the words for each subsequent insertion
14 required by law; * * * for publishing in a newspaper any summons,
15 order, citation, advertisement or notice for any other party,
16 Twenty-five cents (25¢) for each word it contains for the first
17 insertion, and Twenty-three cents (23¢) for each of the words for
18 each subsequent insertion required by law, and shall increase each



19 year starting July 1, 2026, at a rate comparable to the Consumer
20 Price Index (CPI). When four (4) or more numerals appear
21 consecutively in any such legal publication, four (4) numerals
22 shall be considered as one (1) word, and if there remains a
23 fractional portion of such unit of four (4) numerals therein such
24 fraction shall also be counted as one (1) word. In the case of
25 numbers containing less than four (4) numerals which are isolated
26 from other numerals by words in such publication, the same shall
27 be counted as one (1) word. When tables or tabular matter are
28 included, each line of the standard newspaper column shall be
29 considered as containing at least six (6) words.

30 (ii) The fees authorized in this paragraph (a)
31 shall not be chargeable for any erroneous publication of a
32 summons, order, citation, advertisement or notice required by law
33 to be published in a newspaper, if such error is not attributable
34 to the person or entity requesting the publication.

35 (iii) If an error is made in the text or
36 publication date of a legal notice required to be published for a
37 county or municipal government, a correction shall be made as
38 follows: 1. The correct notice shall be prominently displayed
39 within two (2) business days of the original publication date on
40 the website of the newspaper published in the county, a newspaper
41 of general circulation or the website of the county or
42 municipality; 2. The newspaper published in the county or a
43 newspaper of general circulation shall have the correct notice



44 posted on the Mississippi Press Association database within two
45 (2) business days of the original publication date; and 3. The
46 correct notice shall be published in the next editions of the
47 newspaper published in the county or a newspaper of general
48 circulation after being displayed on the required website.

49 (iv) Postings on the required website shall remain
50 in place until the conclusion of the event or action being
51 advertised; provided, however, that no website as defined in this
52 section shall be required to maintain such posting for a period in
53 excess of one (1) year.

54 (v) A correction made as prescribed in this
55 section shall be considered as having been correctly published on
56 the original publication date and shall satisfy any and all legal
57 requirements of adequate notice to the public."

58 (b) For making proof of publication, making a copy
59 thereof, and for depositing to the same, * * * Five Dollars (\$5.00);
60 but this section shall not apply to the publication of ordinances
61 of municipalities, proceedings of the board of supervisors and
62 school boards or audit reports.

63 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2025.

