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June 20, 2011

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois
Room 207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Request for Approval of Senate Bill 1686

Dear Governor Quinn:

The Illinois Municipal League respectfully requests that you approve Senate Bill 1686.

Although this legislation contains numerous provisions, our support for this legislation is based on the new language contained in the Municipal Code along with the amended Legal Advertising Rate Act. Senate Bill 1686 is the result of many discussions and negotiations among units of local government and the Illinois Press Association. Over a period of several months, Representatives Frank Mautino and Randy Ramey led discussions, which led to the resulting compromise reflected in Senate Bill 1686.

Many years ago, newspapers were overwhelmingly recognized as the primary means of distributing information to the public. Since then, technology has allowed for quicker disbursement of information to a larger audience. In order to conform with these changes, existing statutes which seek to ensure public notification must also be modified. Additionally, municipalities are facing budget cuts while still enduring significant costs as a result of newspaper publication mandates. There are over 600 newspaper publication requirements for units of local government. These requirements present a significant financial burden for municipalities.

Although Senate Bill 1686 does not address the antiquated newspaper publication requirements, it is expected to provide cost savings for units of local government. There is currently no maximum rate set for newspaper publication. The rates currently charged are based on any given newspaper's annual rate card. By amending the Legal Advertising Rate Act, units of local government will now be guaranteed the lowest rate extended to any of the newspaper's regular customers, including all multiple insertion, cash, and similar discounts. The IML is hopeful that this will result in cost savings for municipalities.

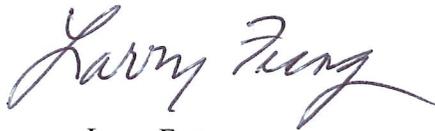
Further, some newspaper publication requirements call for publication more than once. In the circumstance of ordinance publication, three statutes will be amended to provide that publication must only occur once. This, too, will result in cost savings while maintaining complete transparency and continued traditional newspaper publication.



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Governor Quinn
June 20, 2011

The Illinois Municipal League believes that this legislation will prove to be valuable to our membership as they tackle tough budgetary concerns. On behalf of our 1132 member municipalities, we ask that you sign Senate Bill 1686.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Frang". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Larry Frang
Executive Director

LF/AN/gc

cc: Lindsay Anderson, Legislative Director
Senator David Koehler
Representative Frank J. Mautino

Section 25. The Legal Advertising Rate Act is amended by

13 changing Section 1 as follows:

14 (715 ILCS 15/1) (from Ch. 100, par. 11)

15 Sec. 1. For purposes of this Act, "required public notice"

16 means When any notice, advertisement, proclamation, statement,

17 proposal, ordinance or proceedings of an official body or board

18 or any other matter or material that is required by law or by

19 the order or rule of any court to be published in any

20 newspaper. The , the face of type of any required public notice

21 in which such publication shall be made shall be not smaller

22 than the body type used in the classified advertising in the

23 newspaper in which the required public notice is published such

24 publication is made. The minimum rate shall be 20 cents per

1 column line for each insertion of a required public notice. The

2 maximum rate charged for each insertion of a required public

3 notice shall not exceed the lowest classified rate paid by

4 commercial users for comparable space in the newspapers in

5 which the required public notice appears and shall include all

6 cash discounts, multiple insertion discounts, and similar

7 benefits extended to the newspaper's regular customers. For the

8 purposes of this Act, "commercial user" means a customer

9 submitting commercial advertising, and does not include a

10 customer submitting a required public notice. . The maximum
11 rate for each insertion shall not exceed the newspaper's
12 annually published rate for comparable local advertising
13 space.

14 (Source: P.A. 94-874, eff. 1-1-07.)

15 (35 ILCS 200/12-65 rep.)

16 Section 30. The Property Tax Code is amended by repealing
17 Section 12-65.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
19 1, 2012, except that the provisions of Section 10 take effect
20 upon becoming law.