



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**March 26, 2019**

**Resolution Supporting the Passage of HB 1235, District 2**

---

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution Supporting the Passage of HB 1235

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 2

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Commission is asked to approve the attached resolution drafted by Commissioner Lober.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Representative Randy Fine has filed HB 1235 for consideration during the 2019 Regular Session. Should this bill pass and be signed into law, it would eliminate the requirement that the County advertise legal notices within a newspaper and would allow such notices to be placed online, saving taxpayers a tremendous amount of money.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

- ▣ **Legal Ad Resolution**



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972  
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

March 27, 2019

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Frank Abbate, County Manager

**RE:** Item J.4., Resolution Supporting the Passage of HB 1235

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 26, 2019, adopted Resolution No. 19-048, supporting the passage of House Bill 1235, should the Bill pass and be signed into law it would eliminate the requirement that the County advertise legal notices with a newspaper and would allow such notices to be placed online, saving taxpayers a tremendous amount of money. Enclosed is a certified copy of the Resolution

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*for Denna Scott*  
for Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/kp

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner

**Resolution 19-048**

**Supporting the Passage of House Bill 1235**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1235, an act relating to legal notices, has been introduced by Representative Randy Fine of Dist. 53; and

**WHEREAS**, in the most recent completed fiscal year, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners spent approximately \$75,000 on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, last year, the Tax Collector spent at least \$209,997.48 on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, in the most recent completed fiscal year, the Brevard County Clerk of the Court spent \$39,461.02 on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, in the current fiscal year, to date, the Supervisor of Elections has spent \$26,424 on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff's Office and the Property Appraiser also spend funds on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Cape Canaveral, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Indian Harbour Beach, Melbourne, Palm Bay, Rockledge, Satellite Beach, Titusville and West Melbourne also spend funds on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, the towns of Grant-Valkaria, Indialantic, Malabar, Melbourne Beach, Melbourne Village and Palm Shores also spend funds on legal advertising; and

**WHEREAS**, newspaper circulation continues to decline despite a growing population; and

**WHEREAS**, online access continues to increase with a growing population; and

**WHEREAS**, in the age of digital information, news is freely, timely and continually available online without subscription costs which limit readership; and

**WHEREAS**, in the age of digital information, far more consumers obtain their news online than from newspapers; and

**WHEREAS**, just as email has largely supplanted facsimile machines, so too is the internet replacing traditional newspapers for most Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, this trend of a shrinking subscriber base is projected to continue as is the trend of increased access to the internet; and

**WHEREAS**, the market has shifted from daily print media to an online and on-demand model in which consumers of all socioeconomic levels are able to access information; and

**WHEREAS**, in certain markets there exist only one or two newspapers with which government may advertise due to the requirements presently in place; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1235 does not obviate government's obligation to provide legal notice; and

**WHEREAS**, if House Bill 1235 is passed, government will still be required to advertise legal notices; and

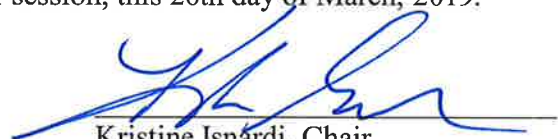
**WHEREAS**, if House Bill 1235 is passed, legal notices will have to be advertised on a publicly accessible website; and

**WHEREAS**, publication on a publicly accessible website will ensure the broadest possible audience and the greatest possible viewership; and

**WHEREAS**, if House Bill 1235 is passed, individuals who prefer to receive legal notices by first-class mail or email will be entitled to register their physical address or email address, for this purpose, and will receive legal notices in this manner.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**, does let it be known that it supports the passage of House Bill 1235.

**DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED**, in regular session, this 26th day of March, 2019.



Kristine Isnardi, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
Brevard County, Florida  
As approved by Board 3/26/19

ATTEST:



Scott Ellis, Clerk