

HB 764 -- NEWSPAPERS

SPONSOR: Andrews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 1.

Currently, in order to qualify as a newspaper legally acceptable to run public notices and advertisements, a newspaper must have been published regularly for a period of three years; or must be the successor newspaper to a defunct newspaper and begin publication no later than 30 days after the termination of the prior newspaper.

This bill reduces the time period of regular publication from three years to one year, and increases the time period from 30 days to 90 days within which a successor newspaper must begin publication. The bill also allows a newspaper that has been purchased or newly established by another newspaper that satisfies these conditions to qualify.

This bill is the same as HB 2567 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill provides news to rural communities who do not readily have internet access. They also say that local newspapers help communities and this bill puts Missouri in line with other states.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Andrews and Missouri Press Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.