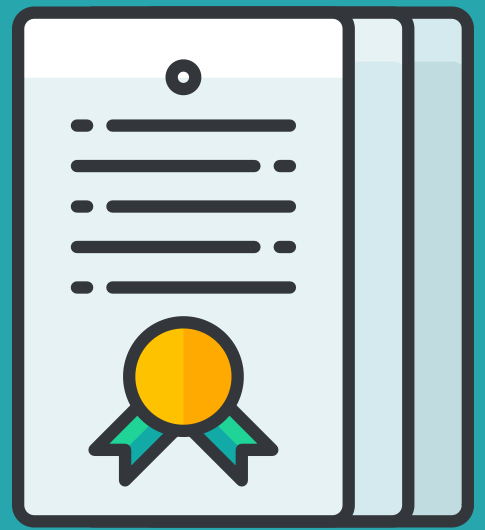


# Required Publication of Local Bills



A primer on compliance with Section 106 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

## Local Constitutional Amendments: What needs to be advertised

Local Constitutional Amendments do not require advertising prior to introduction. However, any bills to amend or create a local law do require advertising prior to introduction.

## Advertising Requirements: Duration

Section 106 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901 requires that local bills be advertised “at least once a week for four consecutive weeks” in a newspaper in any affected county prior to introduction.

## Advertising Requirements: Content

Advertisement may be achieved through publication of an entire bill text or a summary of the bill’s “essential and material parts.” Any repeal or amendment of an existing local law is also considered “essential and material part.”

## Advertising Requirements: Notice Language

The advertisement should indicate the particular session of the Legislature in which a local bill will be introduced.

## Advertising Expires

Advertising is ineffective if a bill is not introduced or passed in the session specified in the advertisement or if the advertisement is too remote from the time of introduction. If using “next session” language, this means the bill must be introduced in the first subsequent session.

## Local Bill Introduction

A local bill may not be introduced on the same day as the final advertisement date. A local bill must be introduced following the final advertisement date.

## A signed affidavit and copy of advertisement required

A local bill must be accompanied at the time of introduction by a signed affidavit and a copy of the advertisement (“Notice and Proof” or “N&P”), indicating the dates when the advertisement ran.

## Amendment of Advertised Local Bills

A local bill may not be amended so that the enacted law is “materially different” from what was published.

