

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2166
Version:	POLREC
Request Number:	12874
Author:	Rep. Pfeiffer
Date:	3/6/2025
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The policy committee recommendation to HB 2166 clarifies what constitutes a legal newspaper of general circulation within Oklahoma by defining two different classes of newspapers. Those two classes include a periodical permit newspaper and a non-periodical permit newspaper. Specific requirements for each class of newspaper are outlined in the measure.

Additionally, the measure outlines duties for both classes of newspapers, which include:

- Registering ownership with the Oklahoma Secretary of State;
- Publishing all legal notices on the newspaper website in a timely manner and in front of pay walls, if applicable;
- Placing notices on the statewide website established as a joint venture of a majority of Oklahoma newspapers qualified as legal newspapers when applicable;
- Publishing a promotional ad in each issue in which a public notice appears;
- Archiving printed issues containing legal notices for at least three years; and
- Maintaining ownership independent of any governmental entity such as a political party, state agency, political subdivision, or a fraternal or religious organization.

Lastly, the measure establishes that if no legal newspaper exists in a county, a newspaper can be established by meeting the provisions of the measure after a period of 52 consecutive weeks in a 12 month period rather than 104 consecutive weeks. The measure also raises the threshold, from 14 days to 21 days, in which a newspaper can fail to publish due to fire, accident, natural disaster, national health emergency declared by the state or federal government, or legal proceedings against the equipment or property of the newspaper without being penalized for not maintaining continuous publication.

Prepared By: Keana Swadley

Fiscal Analysis

The policy committee recommendation to HB 2166 does not materially alter the prior fiscal impact statement. The measure does not mandate any action or expenditure by a state agency. Therefore, the measure is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Zach Lein, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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