

RS 43:141

§141. Official journal to be selected by police juries, city and parish councils, municipal corporations, and school boards

A. The police juries, city and parish councils, municipal corporations, and school boards in all the parishes, the parish of Orleans excepted, at their first meeting in June of each year, shall select a newspaper as official journal for their respective parishes, towns, or cities for a term of one year.

B. In any parish which is divided by the Mississippi River and has a population of not less than one hundred thousand the governing body shall have the authority to select two official journals for their respective parishes, one of which shall be located on one bank of the river and the other which shall be located on the opposite bank thereof and no act heretofore performed shall be considered invalid because of any such parish having heretofore designated two such official journals.

Amended by Acts 1958, No. 515, §1; Acts 1986, No. 378, §1, eff. July 2, 1986.

RS 43:141.1

§141.1. Requirement for website

A. Every official journal selected pursuant to this Part shall have a website and shall post all official proceedings and public notices that it publishes on that website and on a collective website in which a majority of the state's official journals participate.

B. Parish and municipal governing authorities and school boards may publish on their respective websites a copy of the official proceedings and public notices that they are required to publish in their official journals.

Acts 2023, No. 178, §1.

RS 43:142

§142. Qualifications of newspaper

The newspaper:

(1) Shall have been published in an office physically located in the parish in which the body is located for a period of two years preceding the selection.

(2) Shall not have missed during that period as many as three consecutive issues unless caused by fire, flood, strike, or natural disaster.

(3) Shall have maintained a general paid circulation in the parish in which the body is located for two consecutive years prior to the selection.

(4) Shall have been entered in a U.S. post office in the state of Louisiana under a periodical permit in the state for a period of two consecutive years prior to the selection.

Acts 1950, No. 289, §1; Acts 1952, No. 276, §1; Acts 1970, No. 111, §1; Acts 1986, No. 378, §1, eff. July 2, 1986; Acts 1997, No. 422, §1; Acts 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 36, §1; Acts 2014, No. 197, §1, eff. May 22, 2014; Acts 2024, No. 464, §1.

NOTE: See also R.S. 43:140(3) regarding definition of newspaper.

RS 43:143

§143. Newspaper selected to be known as official journal; duties

The newspaper selected shall be known as the official journal of the parish, town, city or school board, and it shall publish all minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets and other official proceedings of the police jury, town or city councils, or the school board.

RS 43:143.1

§143.1. Publications; errors and omissions; billing; retention period

A. Except where constitutionally infirm, any fault in the publication of any official proceeding or public notice to be published in the official journal that is not due to the negligence of the public body shall not affect the validity of the publication of the proceeding or notice.

B.(1) An official journal that publishes official proceedings and public notices shall, within thirty days after such a publication, submit a bill for the publication with a copy of the original published proceeding or notice and a verified statement that does both of the following:

- (a) States the rate charged to the political subdivision for the publication.
- (b) Certifies the number and dates of publication.

(2) No compensation for such publishing is payable unless the bill is accompanied by the verified statement required in this Subsection.

C.(1) Official proceedings and public notices shall be retained by the Louisiana Public Notice program promulgated by the Louisiana Press Association for a minimum period of three years.

(2) Official proceedings and public notices shall be retained by the political subdivision in accordance with R.S. 44:36.

Acts 2023, No. 178, §1.

RS 43:144

§144. Penalty for failure to have proceedings published

The official of any municipal corporation, police jury, or school board by law responsible for the preparing and recording of the official proceedings who, within twenty days from the date of any meeting at which the official proceedings were had, wilfully neglects or fails to furnish the official journal with a copy of the minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and proceedings for publication, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than six months, or both.

Acts 2010, No. 251, §1.

RS 43:145

§145. Municipalities to select newspaper located within their boundaries

Municipal corporations shall select an official journal published in an office physically located within their municipal boundaries if a newspaper as defined in R.S. 43:140(3) is published therein. If no qualified newspaper is published within the municipal boundaries, a newspaper published in the parish of the municipal corporation which meets the requirements of a newspaper as defined in R.S. 43:140(3) shall be selected.

Acts 1986, No. 378, §1, eff. July 2, 1986.

RS 43:146

§146. Designation of other newspaper when no newspaper published in the parish

Where there is no newspaper published in an office physically located within the parish which meets the requirements of R.S. 43:140(3), a newspaper in an adjoining parish may be designated as the official journal.

Acts 1986, No. 378, §1, eff. July 2, 1986.

RS 43:147

NOTE: §147 eff. until July 1, 2027. See Acts 2023, No. 178.

§147. Compensation for printing

A. The parish and municipal governing authorities and school boards of this state may have their official proceedings and public notices published by contract, compensation for which shall not exceed the amounts provided by this Section unless agreed by both parties in writing. Payment may be made monthly or quarterly at the option of the governing authority or school board.

B. When publication is not done by contract, the cost of advertisement in all parishes which do not contain a city of over one hundred thousand population shall not exceed the rate of six dollars per square of one hundred words or a fraction thereof. When the insertion contains material to be set in tabular form, the tabulated matter shall be computed on the basis of the number of words of straight matter which would occupy identical space.

C. The agate line shall be the unit of basis of measurement and charges for all official proceedings published in parishes containing a city of more than one hundred thousand, but less than three hundred thousand population. When the publication of the proceedings is not done by contract providing for a lesser amount, the printing shall be let at not over thirty-three cents per agate line of space occupied by each insertion.

D. The agate line shall be the unit or basis of measurement and charge for all official proceedings published in parishes containing a city of more than three hundred thousand population. When the publication of the proceedings is not done by contract providing for a lesser amount, the printing shall be let at not over thirty-seven cents per agate line of space occupied by each insertion.

NOTE: §147 as repealed by Acts 2023, No. 178, eff. July 1, 2027.

§147. Repealed by Acts 2023, No. 178, §2, eff. July 1, 2027.

Amended by Acts 1962, No. 138, §1; Acts 1972, No. 89, §1; Acts 1976, No. 485, §1; Acts 1980, No. 317, §1, eff. June 1, 1981; Acts 1999, No. 501, §2, eff. June 28, 1999; Acts 2023, No. 178, §1; Acts 2023, No. 178, §2, eff. July 1, 2027.

RS 43:147.1

§147.1. Compensation for printing; per character

A. The parish and municipal governing authorities and school boards of this state may have their official proceedings and public notices published by contract, compensation for which shall not exceed the amounts provided by this Section unless agreed to by both parties in writing. Payment may be made monthly or quarterly at the option of the governing authority or school board.

B.(1) In all parishes that do not contain a city with a population of more than one hundred thousand, the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the rate of one and one-half cents per character. When the insertion contains material to be set in tabular form or is submitted prebuilt, the rate will be computed at two dollars seventy-six cents per square inch based on six-point type and six-point font. If the notice is set in larger type or font, the rate shall be prorated. Regardless of the size of type the notice is set in, the rates specified in this Paragraph are based on a printable space of one-inch-high and one-inch-wide column. If the page width is either wider or narrower for a single column, the rate per column shall be prorated.

(2) In all parishes that contain a city with a population of more than one hundred thousand, the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices shall not exceed the rate of two cents per character. When the insertion contains material to be set in tabular form or is submitted prebuilt, the rate will be computed at three dollars ninety-six cents per square inch based on six-point type and six-point font. If the notice is set in larger type or font, the rate shall be prorated. Regardless of the size of type the notice is set in, the rates specified in this Paragraph are based on a printable space of one-inch-high and one-inch-wide column. If the page width is either wider or narrower for a single column, the rate per column shall be prorated.

(3) For purposes of this Subsection, "character" means an alphanumeric character and any punctuation or other character, all of which have been requested by the public body, and shall not include letting, kerning, or spacing unless additional letting, kerning, or spacing is ordered by the public body at a cost agreed to in writing.

C. The charge for publication of official proceedings and public notices on the website of either the official journal or a public notice website in which official journals participate shall be subsumed within the applicable publication rate.

Acts 2023, No. 178, §1.

RS 43:147.2

NOTE: §147.2 eff. until July 1, 2027. See Acts 2023, No. 178.

§147.2. Compensation for printing; January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 43:147.1, from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026, any qualified newspaper may submit a bid using the provisions of R.S. 43:147 or the provisions of R.S. 43:147.1, or both, at the newspaper's option, and the bid may be accepted by the governing authority.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2027, qualified newspapers shall submit to parish and municipal governing authorities and school boards, upon the request of any such body, bids for official proceeding and public notice by online publication pursuant to R.S. 43:147.1, unless the governing body requests otherwise.

C. Any online publication pursuant to this Section shall include, at no additional charge unless agreed by the parties, a printed advertisement that describes the subject matter of the publication by the parish or municipal governing authority or school board and directs readers to the location of the full online publication on the website of the official journal or on a public notice internet website in which a majority of the state's official journals participate.

NOTE: §147.2 as repealed by Acts 2023, No. 178, eff. July 1, 2027.

§147.2. Repealed by Acts 2023, No. 178, §2, eff. July 1, 2027.

Acts 2023, No. 178, §1; Acts 2023, No. 178, §2, eff. July 1, 2027.

RS 43:147.3

§147.3. Cost of publication

The official journal of a political subdivision shall include a statement of the cost charged to the political subdivision for publication with any proceeding, notice, or other information that it publishes for the political subdivision pursuant to a legal requirement that the information be published. The official journal shall not charge the political subdivision for printing this statement of cost.

Acts 2024, No. 464, §1.

RS 43:148

§148. Bids may be required

In printing what is generally designated as job work, or commercial printing, bids may be required for any work exceeding twenty-five dollars, and the contract shall then be awarded to the lowest bidder.

RS 43:149

§149. Vacancy; how filled

In case of vacancy the governing body shall select an official journal for the unexpired term.