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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 928 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Tom George
Committee: Local, Urban and State Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Charter Township Act to allow a township board to publish its notices, ordinances, and proceedings in a newspaper, or by posting on the township's website or in the office of the township clerk and five other places in the township. If publication were made by posting on the website or in the township, a notice of the posting would have to be published at least once in a newspaper circulated in the township or county.

Currently, the publication of all notices, ordinances, and proceedings for which a mode of publication is not prescribed by the Act or by ordinance, must be made in a newspaper published and circulated in the township. If a newspaper is not published or circulated in the township, then the publication must be in a newspaper published in the county in which the township is located, or must be made by a posting in the office of the township clerk and at least five other public places in the township. If publication is made by posting, a notice of the posting, setting forth the purpose or nature of the notice, ordinance, or proceeding posted, and the location of the places where posted, must be published at least once in a newspaper, as required above, within seven days after the posting. The bill would delete these provisions.

The bill provides that when any posting was made in the clerk's office and at five other township locations or on the township website, a notice of the posting describing the purpose or nature of the notice, ordinance, or proceeding posted and the location of the places where posted, would have to be published at least once in a newspaper meeting the current requirements of the Act within seven days of the posting.

MCL 42.8

Legislative Analyst: J.P. Finet

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no effect on local government revenue but could reduce local government expenditures by an unknown amount. The bill would have no fiscal impact on State government. It is not known how many, or which, townships would choose to change their publication methods under the bill, but to the extent that changes were made, the bill would provide for lower-cost options for the publication of notices, ordinances, and proceedings.

This analysis is preliminary and will be revised as new information becomes available.

Date Completed: 6-1-04

Fiscal Analyst: David Zin