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Written Comments

HCR72

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STATES CONCERNING THE COSTS AND METHODS OF PUBLICIZING REQUIRED STATUTORY LEGAL NOTICES PAID FOR WITH PUBLIC FUNDS

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committees on Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce

Monday, March 17, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Chairs Rhoads and McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

Good afternoon Chairs Rhoads and McKelvey and members of the Committees, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 721, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Comparative Study of States Concerning the Costs and Methods of Publicizing Required Statutory Legal Notices Paid for with Public Funds.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Legislative Reference Bureau:

- (1) Compare the costs and methods of publicizing required legal notices of the states;
- (2) Examine alternative methods of publicizing required legal notices, including on television, radio, and the Internet;
- (3) Review cost-saving strategies concerning required legal notices;
- (4) Determine the most effective channels of media for publicizing required legal notices; and

- (5) Submit a report of the study to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

Among other things, in paragraph (3) of the first be it resolved paragraph, the measure requests that the Bureau "review cost-saving strategies concerning required legal notices." However, the measure does not indicate what cost-saving strategies are to be subject to the Bureau's review. Further, as drafted, it is unclear to us what this provision is intended to add to a review of the alternative methods, costs, and effectiveness of publicizing legal notices, which is already adequately covered under the remaining paragraphs. We suggest this paragraph be deleted. However, if the Committees feel it necessary to retain this provision, we request that further clarification be provided to ensure the Bureau will be able to include information in the report that will be useful to the Legislature.

In all other respects, the Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.