

This Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

H. F. No. **2882**

03/14/2012 Authored by Winkler

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to local government; authorizing certain counties to publish the
1.3 proceedings of the county board on the county's Web site; amending Minnesota
1.4 Statutes 2010, section 375.12.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 375.12, is amended to read:

1.7 **375.12 PROCEEDINGS IN QUALIFIED PAPER WITHIN 30 DAYS; LET**
1.8 **BY BID.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Summary; in daily ~~or~~, weekly, or Web site.** The county board shall
1.10 have the official proceedings of its sessions published as described in subdivision 1a or
1.11 1b. If the county board determines that publication of a summary of the proceedings
1.12 would adequately inform the public of the substance of the proceedings, the county board
1.13 may direct that only a summary be published, conforming to the requirements of section
1.14 331A.01, subdivision 10.

1.15 Subd. 1a. **Counties with a population that does not exceed 600,000.** For
1.16 counties whose population does not exceed 600,000, the county board shall have the
1.17 official proceedings of its sessions, or a summary of its proceedings as authorized under
1.18 subdivision 1, published in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the county. The
1.19 publication shall be let annually by contract to the lowest bidder, at the first regular session
1.20 of the board in January each year. ~~If the county board determines that publication of a~~
1.21 ~~summary of the proceedings would adequately inform the public of the substance of the~~
1.22 ~~proceedings, the county board may direct that only a summary be published, conforming~~
1.23 ~~to the requirements of section 331A.01, subdivision 10. In each county whose population~~
1.24 ~~exceeds 600,000, the proceedings shall be published in a daily newspaper. The board may~~

2.1 reject any offer if, in its judgment, the public interests require, and may then designate a
2.2 newspaper without regard to any rejected offer. In any county whose population exceeds
2.3 50,000, and is less than 250,000, the proceedings may be published in one daily and one
2.4 weekly newspaper at the county seat. If the official newspaper of the county ceases to
2.5 exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper, the county board may
2.6 designate another newspaper for the remainder of the year. The publication shall occur
2.7 within 30 days of the meeting to which the proceedings relate.

2.8 Subd. 1b. Counties with a population exceeding 600,000. For counties whose
2.9 population exceeds 600,000, the county board shall have the official proceedings of its
2.10 sessions, or a summary of its proceedings as authorized under subdivision 1, published
2.11 in either:

2.12 (1) a daily qualified newspaper of general circulation in the county in compliance
2.13 with subdivision 1a; or

2.14 (2) on the county's Web site if the following conditions are met:

2.15 (i) the county's home page displays a link to official proceedings;

2.16 (ii) minutes of county board proceedings are kept for at least one year on the Web
2.17 site; and

2.18 (iii) official notices remain on the Web site during the notice's full publication period.

2.19 **Subd. 2. Small claims totaled.** Individualized itemized accounts, claims or
2.20 demands allowed by the county board pursuant to section 471.38, subdivision 1, need not
2.21 be published pursuant to subdivision 1, if the amount allowed from each claim is \$2,000
2.22 or less. The official proceedings following the itemization of accounts required shall
2.23 contain a statement showing the total number of claims that did not exceed \$2,000 and
2.24 their total dollar amount.