

## **Provisions of SB 186**

### **Allowing Local Governments the Option of Posting Notices Online**

Association County Commissioners of Georgia

- 1) The bill provides local governments the option of posting some of their legal notices on the Internet (electronically) in lieu of, or in addition to, the legal organ. It is not a requirement.
- 2) In order to do this, counties/cities would have to first adopt an ordinance clearly outlining what notices will be posted on the Internet site.
- 3) Upon adoption of the ordinance, the county/city must publish (in a newspaper having a general circulation for that jurisdiction) specific instructions as to how and where to access all electronic notices published under the ordinance at least once a month, for 12 months. This notice would also explain when the electronic postings will begin. Following the first year, this newspaper notice will have to be published at least once annually.
- 4) All electronic notices must, at a minimum, follow the same time schedule and content requirements that are currently required in law.
- 5) All counties/cities that post these electronic notices must have links on their Internet main or index page to all electronic notices, or a link on their main/index page to another page which contains links to all notices.
- 6) Notices and links to all notices on the county/city Internet site must be maintained on that site for at least one year after publication.
- 7) A copy of the electronic notice shall be filed in a notice book maintained separate and apart from the ordinance book or minutes of the local governing authority. That book shall be appropriately indexed and maintained for public inspection in the county/city clerk's office.
- 8) A copy of each electronic notice must be provided to each public library and clerk of superior court located within the jurisdiction of the governing authority. All notices shall be available for inspection or copying for at least one year.
- 9) This bill in no way impacts or supersedes any provision of law that requires notice by mail to certain persons or the posting of signs on certain property.
- 10) To reach those that do not have Internet access, any person can file a written request to the county/city clerk and shall receive notices to be mailed or e-mailed to them. The county/city may require persons submitting this written request for notice to renew this request annually. Instructions for submitting this written request must be included in the posting requirements included in #3 above.
- 11) Constitutional officers are authorized, but not required, to continue to post their notices in the legal organ or electronically. The county would then have to link these to their Internet site.