

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice*

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee

RE: **ASSEMBLY, NO. 2082** (*Bramnick/Coutinho*)

DATE: February 3, 2011

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The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) is pleased to inform the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee of its support of A-2082, which permits the publication of legal notices by governments and individuals on an official government website instead of a newspaper.

The Association supports this timely legislation as it provides county governments with the option of either publishing legal notices in a newspaper as required under current law or posting such notices on its official county website if such a strategy proves cost effective. At a time in which local governments are struggling to make ends meet while maintaining essential services, this legislation provides counties with an additional resource to streamline its operations if feasible.

Pursuant to a broad-based survey completed by our county administrators, finance officers, and purchasing officials, county governments spent approximately \$1.2 million on publishing mandated legal notices in various newspaper publications throughout the State in 2009. In general, this figure includes legal notices required by law of our clerks of the board, planning departments, purchasing officials, park commissions, and county authorities. Such notices typically include contract awards, contract addendums, various legal notices, meeting notices, RFP and RFQ notices, and election notices. *Please note that the above figure does not include sheriff sales, where advertising costs are typically paid by plaintiffs and not taxpayer dollars.* In light of the fact that all twenty-one counties maintain comprehensive websites, county governments could realize a potential cost savings of up to 90% if this bill becomes law.

With this in mind, NJAC urges the Committee to favorably report A-2082 at this time. Thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us at (609) 394-3467 with any questions or concerns.