STATE OF NEW YORK

783

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to removing certain requirements for official websites of small municipalities; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the general municipal law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3353-A and A. 2852-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 300 of the general municipal law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the general municipal law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3353-A and A. 2852-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 300. Municipal websites. 1. All municipal corporations **having a population, as shown by the latest preceding decennial federal census, equal to or greater than one thousand five hundred persons,** shall maintain an official website with a ".gov" domain name that is accessible to the public and update such website regularly[~~. The~~]**, as follows: the** official website shall contain basic information on the municipality including but not limited to hours of operations, elected officials and services provided[~~. The~~] **and the** website shall contain a privacy policy that is prominently posted and written in plain language that informs website visitors of any personal information that is being collected and how it is being used**; provided however, that any municipal corporation having a population, as shown by the latest preceding decennial federal census, of less than one thousand five hundred persons, shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent practicable. For purposes of this section, a municipal corporation that hosts its offi-**

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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cial website on another municipal corporation's ".gov" Uniform Resource Locator (URL) will satisfy this section's requirement to maintain an official website with a ".gov" domain name.

2. [~~Municipal~~] All municipal websites of municipal corporations having a population, as shown by the latest preceding decennial federal census, equal to or greater than one thousand five hundred persons shall, at a minimum, contain the following information:

a. all documents required by subdivision seven of section thirty of this chapter;

b. notice of all municipal elections, public hearings and public meetings including regular board or legislative meetings;

c. agenda and minutes of municipal meetings as required by article seven of the public officers law; and

d. an up to date version of, or an active hyperlink to, the municipality's codes or local laws and resolutions; provided however, that any municipal corporation having a population, as shown by the latest preceding decennial federal census, of less than one thousand five hundred persons, shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent practicable.

§ 2. Subdivision 7 of section 30 of the general municipal law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the general municipal law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3353-A and A. 2852-A, is amended to read as follows:

7. Each municipal corporation shall make accessible to the public on its [~~official~~] municipal website required under article thirteen-E of this chapter documentation pertaining to its most recent annual financial reports, current year budget, most recent independent audit report and most recent fiscal performance plan or multiyear financial plan required pursuant to paragraph g of subdivision ten of section fifty-four of the state finance law, unless such information is covered by subdivision two of section eighty-seven of the public officers law.

§ 3. Section 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the general municipal law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3353-A and A. 2852-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3. This act shall take effect [~~on the one hundred eightieth day~~] one year after it shall have become a law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section one and two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the general municipal law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3353-A and A. 2852-A, takes effect.