

January 2, 2025

### GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LEGISLATION TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF NOTICES

*By: Christopher J. Sedefian, Esq.*

Governor Murphy signed Assembly Bill No. 5151/Senate Bill No. 3957 into law on December 31, 2024 (codified as P.L.2024, c.106) in an effort to address the growing issue of New Jersey print newspapers, including The Star-Ledger, moving to an electronic-only format. Under the new legislation, government agencies are permitted to continue posting required public notices and legal advertisements with newspapers that they utilized in 2024, even if those newspapers have switched to an electronic-only format. The legislation specifically identifies “the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries as official documents” as the types of permissible postings. The electronic newspapers must make the information available free of charge to all readers and cannot require individuals to register with them before gaining access. Finally, the publishing fee cannot exceed the existing statutory rates.

While the law takes effect immediately, it is important to note that it is only a temporary measure effective through March 1, 2025. The Legislature will presumably work on a more permanent solution to address this issue between now and then.

SPSK’s attorneys are ready to assist with any questions or concerns.

*DISCLAIMER: This Alert is designed to keep you aware of recent developments in the law. It is not intended to be legal advice, which can only be given after the attorney understands the facts of a particular matter and the goals of the client.*

#### Florham Park

220 Park Avenue  
Florham Park, NJ 07932  
973-539-1000

#### Paramus

115 West Century Road  
Suite 100  
Paramus, NJ 07652  
201-262-1600

#### Sparta

351 Sparta Avenue  
Sparta, NJ 07871  
973-295-3670

#### New York

9 East 40th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
646-652-7775