

AB 1902 by Assemblyman Brian Jones (R-La Mesa) would allow an Internet-only news entity to become an adjudicated Newspaper of General Circulation, allowing it to publish public and legal notices. Patterned after an existing law for regionally printed newspapers, the bill limits essential criteria required for printed newspapers that, taken together, establish that the newspaper is there to stay as a trusted source of news and information for the community.

AB 1902 Talking Points

- The bill would allow Internet operations with virtually no ties to a community to become the official Newspaper.
- AB 1902 requires no principal business office in the community. The business could be run on servers in India by a person in Iowa or a scofflaw in Texas.
- AB 1902 requires no substantial paid circulation.
- AB 1902 would allow an Internet operation to qualify with only a few non-paid subscribers.
- AB 1902 sets no measurable standards for readership in the community.
- AB 1902 creates incredibly low hurdle for news content (25 % of home page dedicated to news).
- Internet-only public notices undependable, no permanency; subject to change; subject to technological failure. Connections fail, servers crash, links die and web sites are hacked. (See CNPA AB1902 letter for detail).
- Digital divide issues persist; only 62 percent of Americans have broadband access.
- Printed and distributed public notices are dependably accessible by all segments of society
- Printed and distributed public notices are archivable.
- Printed and distributed public notices are unhackable