LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-fourth Legislature

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First Regular Session - 2017

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 125

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE REVISED UNIFORM LAW ON NOTARIAL ACTS; REPEALING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE IDAHO NOTARY PUBLIC ACT; RE-PEALING CHAPTER 7, TITLE 55, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO ACKNOWLEDGMENTS; AMENDING TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 1, TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE APPLICABILITY, TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PERSONS TO PERFORM A NOTARIAL ACT, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN NOTARIAL ACTS, TO REQUIRE PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS, TO AUTHORIZE A NOTARY PUBLIC TO REFUSE TO PERFORM A NOTARIAL ACT IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR A SIGNATURE IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS UNABLE TO SIGN, TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR A NOTARIAL ACT IN THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR A NOTARIAL ACT IN ANOTHER STATE, TO PROVIDE FOR NOTARIAL ACTS BY AN INDIAN TRIBE, TO PROVIDE FOR NOTARIAL ACTS PERFORMED UNDER FEDERAL AUTHORITY, TO PRO-VIDE FOR FOREIGN NOTARIAL ACTS, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF A NOTARIAL ACT, TO PROVIDE SHORT FORM CERTIFICATES OF NO-TARIAL ACTS, TO PROVIDE FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY AN ENTITY ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER ENTITY, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF A NO-TARY PUBLIC, TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATION REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF NOTARIAL ACTS ON AN ELECTRONIC RECORD, TO PROVIDE FOR SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY FOR AN ELECTRONIC RECORD, TO PROVIDE FOR A COMMISSION AS A NOTARY PUBLIC, TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NOTARY PUBLIC, TO PROVIDE THAT A NOTARY PUBLIC CERTIFICATE SHALL NOT PROVIDE CERTAIN IMMUNITY OR BENEFIT, TO PROVIDE FOR A COURSE OF STUDY AND EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR A COM-MISSION AS A NOTARY PUBLIC, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN GROUNDS TO DENY, REFUSE TO RENEW, REVOKE, SUSPEND OR IMPOSE A CONDITION UPON THE COMMISSION OF A NOTARY PUBLIC, TO PROVIDE FOR A DATABASE OF NOTARIES PUBLIC, TO PRO-HIBIT CERTAIN ACTS BY A NOTARY PUBLIC, TO PROVIDE FOR THE VALIDITY OF CERTAIN NOTARIAL ACTS, TO PROVIDE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECT OF THIS ACT ON A NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE A SAV-INGS CLAUSE, TO PROVIDE FOR UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RELATION OF THIS ACT TO THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT, TO PROVIDE FOR FILING FEES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A NOTARY FEE; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 51-117, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF A NOTARY SEAL; REPEALING SECTION 51-117, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO A NOTARY SEAL; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 51-117, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE RE-QUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF A NOTARY SEAL; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 51, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 51-118, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STAMPING DEVICE; AMENDING SECTION 15-2-502, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO CERTAIN CODE SECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 15-2-504, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO CER-TAIN CODE SECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 15-12-105, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE 1 REFERENCE TO CERTAIN CODE SECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 19-5801, IDAHO
2 CODE, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO A CERTAIN CODE SECTION; AMENDING SECTION
3 31-1408, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING SEC4 TION 55-805, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING
5 SECTION 59-404, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE CORRECT CODE REFERENCES; AMEND6 ING SECTION 59-407, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE CORRECT CODE REFERENCES; AND
7 PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

- 9 SECTION 1. That Chapter 1, Title 51, Idaho Code, be, and the same is 10 hereby repealed.
- SECTION 2. That Chapter 7, Title 55, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.
- SECTION 3. That Title 51, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW CHAPTER</u>, to be known and designated as Chapter 1, Title 51, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16 CHAPTER 1 17 REVISED UNIFORM LAW ON NOTARIAL ACTS

51-101. SHORT TITLE. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts."

51-102. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Acknowledgment" means a declaration by an individual before a notarial officer that the individual has signed a record for the purpose stated in the record and, if the record is signed in a representative capacity, that the individual signed the record with proper authority and signed it as the act of the individual or entity identified in the record.
- (2) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.
- (3) "Electronic signature" means an electronic symbol, sound or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by an individual with the intent to sign the record.
 - (4) "In a representative capacity" means acting as:
 - (a) An authorized officer, agent, partner, trustee or other representative for a person that is not an individual;
 - (b) A public officer, personal representative, guardian or other representative, in the capacity stated in a record;
 - (c) An agent or attorney in fact for a principal; or
 - (d) An authorized representative of another in any other capacity.
- (5) "Notarial act" means an act, whether performed with respect to a tangible or electronic record, that a notarial officer may perform under the law of this state. The term includes taking an acknowledgment, administering an oath or affirmation, taking a verification on oath or affirmation, witnessing or attesting a signature, certifying or attesting a copy, and noting a protest of a negotiable instrument.

- (6) "Notarial officer" means a notary public or other individual authorized to perform a notarial act.
- (7) "Notary public" means an individual commissioned to perform a notarial act by the secretary of state.
- (8) "Official stamp" means a physical image affixed to a tangible record or an electronic image attached to or logically associated with an electronic record.
- (9) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or any other legal entity.
- (10) "Personal appearance" or "appear personally" means the notarial officer is physically close enough to see, hear, communicate with and receive identification documents from the individual seeking notarization and any required witness.
- (11) "Record" means information inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- (12) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record by:
 - (a) Executing or adopting a tangible symbol; or
 - (b) Attaching to or logically associating with the record an electronic symbol, sound or process.
- (13) "Signature" means a tangible symbol or an electronic signature that evidences the signing of a record.
 - (14) "Stamping device" means:

- (a) A physical device capable of affixing to a tangible record an official stamp; or
- (b) An electronic device or process capable of attaching or logically associating an official stamp with an electronic record.
- (15) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
- (16) "Verification on oath or affirmation" means a declaration, made by an individual on oath or affirmation before a notarial officer, that a statement in a record is true.
- 51-103. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies to a notarial act performed on or after the effective date of this act.
- 51-104. AUTHORITY TO PERFORM NOTARIAL ACT. (1) A notarial officer may perform a notarial act authorized by this chapter or by law of this state other than this chapter.
- (2) A notary public may not perform a notarial act with respect to a record to which the notary public or the notary public's spouse is a party, or in which either of them has a direct beneficial interest. A notarial act performed in violation of this subsection is voidable.
- 51-105. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN NOTARIAL ACTS. (1) A notary public who takes an acknowledgment of a record shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that

the individual appearing before the notary public and making the acknowledgment has the identity claimed and that the signature on the record is the signature of the individual.

- (2) A notary public who takes a verification of a statement on oath or affirmation shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the notary public and making the verification has the identity claimed and that the signature on the statement verified is the signature of the individual.
- (3) A notary public who witnesses or attests to a signature shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the notary public and signing the record has the identity claimed.
- (4) A notary public who certifies or attests a copy of a record or an item that was copied shall determine that the copy is a full, true and accurate transcription or reproduction of the record or item.
- (5) A notary public who makes or notes a protest of a negotiable instrument shall determine the matters set forth in section 28-3-505(2), Idaho Code.
- 51-106. PERSONAL APPEARANCE REQUIRED. If a notarial act relates to a statement made in or a signature executed on a record, the individual making the statement or executing the signature shall appear personally before the notary public.
- 51-107. IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL. (1) A notary public has personal knowledge of the identity of an individual appearing before the notary public if the individual is personally known to the notary public through dealings sufficient to provide reasonable certainty that the individual has the identity claimed.
- (2) A notary public has satisfactory evidence of the identity of an individual appearing before the notary public if the notary public can identify the individual:
 - (a) By means of:

- (i) A passport, driver's license or government-issued nondriver identification card that is current or expired not more than three (3) years before performance of the notarial act; or
- (ii) Another form of government identification issued to an individual that is current or expired not more than three (3) years before performance of the notarial act, that contains the signature or a photograph of the individual, and that is satisfactory to the notary public; or
- (b) By a verification on oath or affirmation of a credible witness personally appearing before the notary public and known to the notary public or whom the notary public can identify on the basis of a passport, driver's license or government-issued nondriver identification card that is current or expired not more than three (3) years before performance of the notarial act.

- (3) A notary public may require an individual to provide additional information or identification credentials necessary to assure the notary public of the identity of the individual.
- 51-108. AUTHORITY TO REFUSE TO PERFORM NOTARIAL ACT. (1) A notary public may refuse to perform a notarial act if the notary public is not satisfied that:
 - (a) The individual executing the record is competent or has the capacity to execute the record; or
 - (b) The individual's signature is knowingly and voluntarily made.
- (2) A notary public may refuse to perform a notarial act unless refusal is prohibited by law other than this chapter.
- 51-109. SIGNATURE IF INDIVIDUAL UNABLE TO SIGN. If an individual is physically unable to sign a record, the individual may direct an individual other than the notary public to sign the individual's name on the record. The notary public shall insert "Signature affixed by (name of other individual) at the direction of (name of individual) " or words of similar import.
- 51-110. NOTARIAL ACT IN THIS STATE. (1) A notarial act may be performed in this state by:
 - (a) A notary public of this state; or

- (b) Any other individual authorized to perform the specific act by the law of this state.
- (2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act in this state are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.
- (3) The signature and title of a notary public described in subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.
- 51-111. NOTARIAL ACT IN ANOTHER STATE. (1) A notarial act performed in another state has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notary public of this state if the act performed in that state is performed by:
 - (a) A notary public of that state;
 - (b) A judge, clerk or deputy clerk of a court of that state; or
 - (c) Any other individual authorized by the law of that state to perform the notarial act.
- (2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act in another state are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.
- (3) The signature and title of a notarial officer described in subsection (1) (a) or (b) of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.
- 51-112. NOTARIAL ACT UNDER AUTHORITY OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE. (1) A notarial act performed under the authority and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe has the same effect as if per-

formed by a notary public of this state if the act performed in the jurisdiction of the tribe is performed by:

(a) A notary public of the tribe; or

- (b) Any other individual authorized by the law of the tribe to perform the notarial act.
- (2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act under the authority and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.
- (3) The signature and title of a notarial officer described in subsection (1) (a) or (b) of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.
- 51-113. NOTARIAL ACT UNDER FEDERAL AUTHORITY. (1) A notarial act performed under federal law has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notary public of this state if the act performed under federal law is performed by:
 - (a) A judge, clerk or deputy clerk of a court;
 - (b) An individual in military service or performing duties under the authority of military service who is authorized to perform notarial acts under federal law;
 - (c) An individual designated as a notarizing officer by the United States department of state for performing notarial acts overseas; or
 - (d) Any other individual authorized by federal law to perform the notarial act.
- (2) The signature and title of an individual acting under federal authority and performing a notarial act are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.
- (3) The signature and title of an officer described in subsection (1) (a), (b) or (c) of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.
- 51-114. FOREIGN NOTARIAL ACT. (1) As used in this section, "foreign state" means a government other than the United States, a state or a federally recognized Indian tribe.
- (2) If a notarial act is performed under authority and in the jurisdiction of a foreign state or constituent unit of the foreign state or is performed under the authority of a multinational or international governmental organization, the act has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notary public of this state.
- (3) If the title of office and indication of authority to perform notarial acts in a foreign state appear in a digest of foreign law or in a list customarily used as a source for that information, the authority of an officer with that title to perform notarial acts is conclusively established.
- (4) The signature and official stamp of an individual holding an office described in subsection (3) of this section are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.
- (5) An apostille in the form prescribed by the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961, and issued by a foreign state party to the convention conclu-

sively establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the officer holds the indicated office.

- (6) A consular authentication issued by an individual designated by the United States department of state as a notarizing officer for performing notarial acts overseas and attached to the record with respect to which the notarial act is performed conclusively establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the officer holds the indicated office.
- 51-115. CERTIFICATE OF NOTARIAL ACT. (1) A notarial act must be evidenced by a certificate. The certificate must:
 - (a) Be executed contemporaneously with the performance of the notarial act;
 - (b) Be signed and dated by the notary public;

- (c) Identify the jurisdiction in which the notarial act is performed; and
- (d) Indicate the date of expiration, if any, of the notary public's commission.
- (2) If a notarial act regarding a tangible or electronic record is performed by a notary public, an official stamp must be affixed to the certificate.
- (3) A certificate of a notarial act is sufficient if it meets the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section and:
 - (a) Is in a short form set forth in section 51-116, Idaho Code;
 - (b) Is in a form otherwise permitted by the law of this state;
 - (c) Is in a form permitted by the law applicable in the jurisdiction in which the notarial act was performed; or
 - (d) Sets forth the actions of the notary public and the actions are sufficient to meet the requirements of the notarial act as provided in sections 51-105, 51-106 and 51-107, Idaho Code, or law of this state other than this chapter.
- (4) By executing a certificate of a notarial act, a notary public certifies that the notary public has complied with the requirements and made the determinations specified in sections 51-105, 51-106 and 51-107, Idaho Code.
- (5) A notary public may not affix the notary public's signature to, or logically associate it with, a certificate until the notarial act has been performed.
- (6) If a notarial act is performed regarding a tangible record, a certificate must be part of, or securely attached to, the record. If a notarial act is performed regarding an electronic record, the certificate must be affixed to, or logically associated with, the electronic record. If the secretary of state has established standards pursuant to section 51-127, Idaho Code, for attaching, affixing or logically associating the certificate, the process must conform to the standards.
- 51-116. SHORT FORM CERTIFICATES. The following short form certificates of notarial acts are sufficient for the purposes indicated if completed with the information required by section 51-115(1) and (2), Idaho Code:
 - (1) For an acknowledgment in an individual capacity:

1	State of					
2	County of by Date Name(s) of individual(s)					
4	Date Name(s) of individual(s)					
5 6	Signature of notary public					
7	(Stamp)					
8	My commission expires:					
9	(2) For an acknowledgment in a representative capacity:					
10	State of					
11	County of					
12 13	This record was acknowledged before me on by Date Name(s) of individual(s)					
14 15	as (type of authority, such as officer or trustee) of (name of party on behalf of whom record was executed)					
16 17	Signature of notary public					
18	(Stamp)					
19	My commission expires:					
20	(3) For a verification on oath or affirmation:					
21	State of					
22	County of					
23	Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me					
24 25	on by					
26 27	Signature of notary public					
28	(Stamp)					

1	My commission expires:					
2	(4) For witnessing or attesting a signature:					
3	State of					
4	County of					
5 6 7	Signed (or attested) before me on by by					
8	Signature of notary public					
9	(Stamp)					
10	My commission expires:					
11	(5) For certifying a copy of a record:					
12	State of					
13	County of					
14	I certify that this is a true and correct copy of a record in the possession					
15	of					
16	Dated					
17 18	Signature of notary public					
19	(Stamp)					
20	My commission expires:					
21	51-116A. ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY ENTITY ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER ENTITY. (1) As					
22 23	used in this section: (a) A corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust or					
23 24	other legal entity that is the party executing an instrument and the					
25	party, or one of the parties, to be bound thereby shall be referred to as					
26	the "maker" of the instrument;					
27	(b) A corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust or					
28	other legal entity that is a partner, manager, member, trustee or other					
29 30	authorized representative of the maker shall be referred to as the "constituent entity" of the maker;					
31	(c) The natural person who signs the written instrument as an officer,					
32 33	partner, manager, member, trustee or other authorized representative of the constituent entity shall be referred to as the "signer"; and					

- (d) An acknowledgment of an instrument executed by a maker acting through a constituent entity shall be referred to as a "compound acknowledgment."
- (2) A compound acknowledgment of an instrument shall be made in a form that substantially conforms to the statutory form of acknowledgment for an entity of the same legal form as either the maker or the constituent entity; provided, however, that any acknowledgment that satisfies the requirements of subsection (3) of this section shall suffice.
 - (3) A compound acknowledgment shall:
 - (a) Identify the signer;

- (b) State the signer's official title, capacity or authority to sign on behalf of the constituent entity, or recite that the signer is authorized to sign on behalf of the constituent entity;
- (c) Identify the constituent entity or constituent entities;
- (d) Recite the constituent entity's official title, capacity or authority to act on behalf of the maker, or the relationship of the constituent entity to the maker, or the position the constituent entity holds in or with the maker, or that the constituent entity is authorized to act on behalf of the maker; and
- (e) Identify the maker.
- (4) As an example only, a compound acknowledgment for a maker that is a partnership, acting through a constituent entity that is a corporation, may take the following form:

24	STATE OF)				
25)	SS.			
26	COUNTY OF)				
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36		to me (or officer ti corporation, a but subscribe owledged to oration,	proved to the pr	of the partners partnership the execute	coath of (constitute the part of the part of the part of the field the within free the part of the part of the part of the part of the within free the part of t) to tuent entity) artnership of artner or one foregoing in-instrument on
37 38	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year in this certificate first above written.					
39 40 41 42	Notary Public for _ Residing at _ My commission expir	ces				

- 51-120. NOTIFICATION REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF NOTARIAL ACT ON ELECTRONIC RECORD -- SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY. (1) A notary public may select one (1) or more tamper-evident technologies to perform notarial acts with respect to electronic records. A person may not require a notary public to perform a notarial act with respect to an electronic record with a technology that the notary public has not selected.
- (2) Before a notary public performs the notary public's initial notarial act with respect to an electronic record, a notary public shall notify the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts with respect to electronic records and identify the technology the notary public intends to use. If the secretary of state has established standards for approval of technology pursuant to section 51-127, Idaho Code, the technology must conform to the standards. If the technology conforms to the standards, the secretary of state shall approve the use of the technology.
- 51-121. COMMISSION AS NOTARY PUBLIC -- QUALIFICATIONS -- NO IMMUNITY OR BENEFIT. (1) An individual qualified under subsection (2) of this section may apply to the secretary of state for a commission as a notary public. The applicant shall comply with and provide the information required by the secretary of state and pay any application fee.
 - (2) An applicant for a commission as a notary public must:
 - (a) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (b) Be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States;
 - (c) Be a resident of or have a place of employment or place of practice in this state;
 - (d) Be able to read and write;

- (e) Not be disqualified to receive a commission under section 51-123, Idaho Code; and
- (f) On and after July 1, 2019, have passed the examination required under section 51-122(1), Idaho Code.
- (3) Before issuance of a commission as a notary public, an applicant for the commission shall execute an oath of office and submit it to the secretary of state.
- (4) Before issuance of a commission as a notary public, the applicant for a commission shall submit to the secretary of state an assurance in the form of a surety bond or its functional equivalent in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
 - (a) The assurance must be issued by:
 - (i) A surety or other entity licensed or authorized to do business in this state; or
 - (ii) The risk management office in the department of administration for the state of Idaho if the applicant is regularly employed by the state and the commission is required in the scope of that employment.
 - (b) The assurance must cover acts performed during the term of the notary public's commission and must be in the form prescribed by the secretary of state. If a notary public violates law with respect to notaries public in this state, the surety or issuing entity is liable under the assurance. The surety or issuing entity shall give thirty (30) days' notice to the secretary of state before canceling the assur-

ance. The surety or issuing entity shall notify the secretary of state no later than thirty (30) days after making a payment to a claimant under the assurance. A notary public may perform notarial acts in this state only during the period that a valid assurance is on file with the secretary of state.

- (5) On compliance with this section, the secretary of state shall issue a commission as a notary public to an applicant for a term of six (6) years.
- (6) A commission to act as a notary public authorizes the notary public to perform notarial acts. The commission does not provide the notary public any immunity or benefit conferred by law of this state on public officials or employees.
- 51-122. EXAMINATION OF NOTARY PUBLIC. (1) An applicant for a commission as a notary public who does not hold a commission in this state must pass an examination administered by the secretary of state or an entity approved by the secretary of state. The examination must be based on the course of study described in subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) The secretary of state or an entity approved by the secretary of state shall offer regularly a course of study to applicants who do not hold commissions as notaries public in this state. The course must cover the laws, rules, procedures and ethics relevant to notarial acts.
- 51-123. GROUNDS TO DENY, REFUSE TO RENEW, REVOKE, SUSPEND OR CONDITION COMMISSION OF NOTARY PUBLIC. (1) The secretary of state may deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend or impose a condition on a commission as notary public for any act or omission that demonstrates the individual lacks the honesty, integrity, competence or reliability to act as a notary public, including:
 - (a) Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter;
 - (b) A fraudulent, dishonest or deceitful misstatement or omission in the application for a commission as a notary public submitted to the secretary of state;
 - (c) A conviction of the applicant or notary public of any felony or a crime involving fraud, dishonesty or deceit;
 - (d) A finding against, or admission of liability by, the applicant or notary public in any legal proceeding or disciplinary action based on the applicant's or notary public's fraud, dishonesty or deceit;
 - (e) Failure by the notary public to discharge any duty required of a notary public, whether by this chapter, rules of the secretary of state or any federal or state law;
 - (f) Use of false or misleading advertising or representation by the notary public representing that the notary has a duty, right or privilege that the notary does not have;
 - (g) Violation by the notary public of a rule of the secretary of state regarding a notary public;
 - (h) Denial, refusal to renew, revocation, or suspension of, or placing a condition on, a notary public commission in another state; or
 - (i) Failure of the notary public to maintain an assurance as provided in section 51-121(4), Idaho Code.
- (2) If the secretary of state denies, refuses to renew, revokes, suspends or imposes conditions on a commission as a notary public, the applicant

or notary public is entitled to timely notice and hearing in accordance with chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code.

- (3) The authority of the secretary of state to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, revoke or impose conditions on a commission as a notary public does not prevent a person from seeking and obtaining other criminal or civil remedies provided by law.
- 51-124. DATABASE OF NOTARIES PUBLIC. The secretary of state shall maintain an electronic database of notaries public:
- (1) Through which a person may verify the authority of a notary public to perform notarial acts; and
- (2) That indicates whether a notary public has notified the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts on electronic records.
- 51-125. PROHIBITED ACTS. (1) A commission as a notary public does not authorize an individual to:
 - (a) Assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice or otherwise practice law;
 - (b) Act as an immigration consultant or an expert on immigration matters;
 - (c) Represent a person in a judicial or administrative proceeding relating to immigration to the United States, United States citizenship or related matters; or
 - (d) Receive compensation for performing any of the activities listed in this subsection.
 - (2) A notary public may not engage in false or deceptive advertising.
- (3) A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, may not use the term "notario" or "notario publico."
- (4) A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, may not advertise or represent that the notary public may assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice or otherwise practice law. If a notary public who is not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state in any manner advertises or represents that the notary public offers notarial services, whether orally or in a record, including broadcast media, print media and the internet, the notary public shall include the following statement, or an alternate statement authorized or required by the secretary of state, in the advertisement or representation, prominently and in each language used in the advertisement or representation: "I am not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. I am not allowed to draft legal records, give advice on legal matters, including immigration, or charge a fee for those activities." If the form of advertisement or representation is not broadcast media, print media or the internet and does not permit inclusion of the statement required by this subsection because of size, it must be displayed prominently or provided at the place of performance of the notarial act before the notarial act is performed.
- (5) Except as otherwise allowed by law, a notary public may not withhold access to or possession of an original record provided by a person who seeks performance of a notarial act by the notary public.

51-126. VALIDITY OF NOTARIAL ACTS. Except as otherwise provided in section 51-104(2), Idaho Code, the failure of a notary public to perform a duty or meet a requirement specified in this chapter does not invalidate a notarial act performed by the notary public. The validity of a notarial act under this chapter does not prevent an aggrieved person from seeking to invalidate the record or transaction that is the subject of the notarial act or from seeking other remedies based on law of this state other than this chapter or law of the United States. This section does not validate a purported notarial act performed by an individual who does not have the authority to perform notarial acts.

- 51-127. RULES. (1) The secretary of state may adopt rules to implement this chapter. Rules adopted regarding the performance of notarial acts with respect to electronic records may not require, or accord greater legal status or effect to, the implementation or application of a specific technology or technical specification. The rules may include but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Prescribing the manner of performing notarial acts regarding tangible and electronic records;
 - (b) Including provisions to ensure that any change to or tampering with a record bearing a certificate of a notarial act is self-evident;
 - (c) Including provisions to ensure integrity in the creation, transmittal, storage or authentication of electronic records or signatures;
 - (d) Prescribing the process of granting, renewing, conditioning, denying, suspending or revoking a notary public commission and assuring the trustworthiness of an individual holding a commission as notary public;
 - (e) Including provisions to prevent fraud or mistake in the performance of notarial acts;
 - (f) Establishing the process for approving and accepting surety bonds and other forms of assurance under section 51-121(4), Idaho Code; and
 - (g) Providing for the administration of the examination under section 51-122(1), Idaho Code, and the course of study under section 51-122(2), Idaho Code.
- (2) In adopting, amending or repealing rules about notarial acts with respect to electronic records, the secretary of state may consider, as far as is consistent with the provisions of this chapter:
 - (a) The most recent standards regarding electronic records promulgated by national bodies, such as the national association of secretaries of state;
 - (b) Standards, practices and customs of other jurisdictions that substantially enact this chapter; and
 - (c) The views of governmental officials and entities and other interested persons.
- 51-128. NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION IN EFFECT. A commission as a notary public in effect on the effective date of this act continues until its date of expiration. A notary public who applies to renew a commission as a notary public on or after the effective date of this act is subject to and shall comply with the provisions of this chapter. A notary public, in performing no-

tarial acts after the effective date of this act, shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.

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- 51-129. SAVINGS CLAUSE. This chapter does not affect the validity or effect of a notarial act performed before the effective date of this act.
- 51-130. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION. In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.
- 51-131. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT. This chapter modifies, limits or supersedes the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act, 15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq., but does not modify, limit or supersede section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).
- 51-132. FILING FEES. (1) The fee for filing an application for appointment as a notary public shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00).
- (2) The fee for filing an application for electronic notarization authorization shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- (3) There shall be no fee charged for filing a letter of resignation, a certified copy of a judgment of conviction, a certified copy of findings of fact or extract therefrom, public record of proof of material misstatement of fact in an application, certified copy of an order adjudging incompetency, or notice of death.
- (4) The fee for filing notice of change of name or address shall be five dollars (\$5.00).
- (5) The fee for filing notice of cancellation of a notary bond shall be five dollars (\$5.00).
- (6) The fee for a notary public database extraction shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- (7) The fee for a certified copy of a notary public record shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) plus twenty-five cents (25¢) per page.
- 51-133. NOTARY FEE. (1) A notary public may, for any notarial act, charge a fee not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00).
- (2) In addition to the fee, a notary public may be compensated for actual and reasonable expense of travel to a place where the notarial act is to be performed.
- (3) An employer shall not require a notary public in his employment to surrender a fee, if charged, or any part thereof to the employer. An employer may, however, preclude such notary public from charging a fee for a notarial act performed in the scope of the notary public's employment.
- SECTION 4. That Chapter 1, Title 51, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 51-117, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

51-117. SEAL. (1) Each notary public shall provide and keep an official seal, which shall be a rubber stamp with a serrated or milled-edge border in a rectangular or circular form and includes the words "Notary Public," the notary public's name, the words "State of Idaho," and nothing more.

- (2) The seal shall be impressed below or near the notary public's official signature on each notary certificate that the notary administers.
- (3) A notary public is responsible for the security of the notary public's stamping device and may not allow another individual to use the device to perform a notarial act. On resignation from, or the revocation or expiration of, the notary public's commission, the notary public shall disable the stamping device by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing or securing it against use in a manner that renders it unusable. On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in possession of the stamping device shall render it unusable by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing or securing it against use in a manner that renders it unusable. If a notary public's stamping device is lost or stolen, the notary public or the notary public's personal representative or guardian shall promptly notify the commissioning officer or agency on discovering that the device is lost or stolen.
- SECTION 5. That Section 51-117, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.
- SECTION 6. That Chapter 1, Title 51, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 51-117, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:
 - 51-117. OFFICIAL STAMP. The official stamp of a notary public:
- (1) Must include the notary public's name, the words "Notary Public," the words "State of Idaho," and the notary's state-issued commission number;
- (2) May include the words "my commission expires:" followed by the notary's current commission expiration date;
- (3) Must be capable of being copied together with the record to which it is affixed or attached or with which it is logically associated; and
- (4) May not include anything more than that which is allowed in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
- SECTION 7. That Chapter 1, Title 51, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW SECTION</u>, to be known and designated as Section 51-118, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:
- 51-118. STAMPING DEVICE. (1) The stamping device must be an inked stamp which provides an image that is readily visible upon copying. The stamp shall not exceed two and one-fourth (2.25) inches by one (1) inch if rectangular or one and three-fourths (1.75) inches in diameter if circular.
- (2) A notary public is responsible for the security of the notary public's stamping device and may not allow another individual to use the device to perform a notarial act. On resignation from, or the revocation or expiration of, the notary public's commission, the notary public shall disable the stamping device by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing or securing

it against use in a manner that renders it unusable. On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in possession of the stamping device shall render it unusable by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing or securing it against use in a manner that renders it unusable.

(3) If a notary public's stamping device is lost or stolen, the notary public or the notary public's personal representative or guardian shall promptly notify the commissioning officer or agency on discovering that the device is lost or stolen.

SECTION 8. That Section 15-2-502, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

15-2-502. EXECUTION. Except as provided for holographic wills, writings within section 15-2-513 of this part, and wills within section 15-2-506 of this part, or except as provided in sections 51-109, 55-712A or 55-712B, Idaho Code, every will shall be in writing signed by the testator or in the testator's name by some other person in the testator's presence and by his direction, and shall be signed by at least two (2) persons each of whom witnessed either the signing or the testator's acknowledgment of the signature or of the will.

SECTION 9. That Section 15-2-504, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

15-2-504. SELF-PROVED WILL. (1) Any will may be simultaneously executed, attested, and made self-proved, by the acknowledgment thereof by the testator and the affidavits of the witnesses, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state where execution occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under official seal, in form and content substantially as follows:

I,, the testator, sign my name to this instrument this day of,, and being first duly sworn, do hereby declare to the undersigned authority that I sign and execute this instrument as my last will and that I sign it willingly (or willingly direct another to sign for me), that I execute it as my free and voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed, and that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

Testator
We,,, the witnesses, sign our names to this
instrument, being first duly sworn, and do hereby declare to the undersigned
authority that the testator signs and executes this instrument as his last
will and that he signs it willingly (or willingly directs another to sign for
him), and that each of us, in the presence and hearing of the testator, hereby
signs this will as witness to the testator's signing, and that to the best of
his knowledge the testator is eighteen (18) years of age or older, of sound
mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

Witness

	Witness
The State of	
	edged before me by, the testore me by, and
witnesses, this day of	
(Seal)	
	(Signed)
(2) An attested will may at any t	Official capacity of officer) ime subsequent to its execution be made
lf-proved by the acknowledgment the:	reof by the testator and the affidavits officer authorized to administer oaths
ne officer's certificate, under the	acknowledgment occurs and evidenced by official seal, attached or annexed to
ne will in form and content substantine State of	ally as follows:
ounty of	
	l, the testator and the wit-
_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	re signed to the attached or foregoing hereby declare to the undersigned au-
	xecuted the instrument as his last will
	willingly directed another to sign for
	Free and voluntary act for the purposes
	ne witnesses, in the presence and hear-
	as witness and that to the best of his
	me eighteen (18) years of age or older,
sound mind and under no constraint of	
	Testator
	Witness
	Witness
	edged before me by, the tes-
	fore me by \ldots , and \ldots ,
itnesses, this day of	•
Seal)	(Signed)
	(Signea)
	(Official capacity of officer)
(3) A will may be executed, and	made self-proved, in compliance with
	Idaho Code, and attested as set forth in
absections (1) and (2) of this section	on.
SECTION 10. That Section 15-12-	-105, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
ereby amended to read as follows:	
15-12-105. EXECUTION OF POWER (OF ATTORNEY. A power of attorney must
	principal's conscious presence by an-
	ncipal to sign the principal's name on

the power of attorney, including as set forth in section 73-114, Idaho Code. The signature is presumed to be genuine if the principal acknowledges the signature before a notary public or other individual authorized to take acknowledgments, including as set forth in section 51-109(6), Idaho Code, or section 55-712B, Idaho Code.

SECTION 11. That Section 19-5801, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

19-5801. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Alternative Idaho mailing address" means the address of a law enforcement officer's employing entity.
- (2) "Application" means a written form prescribed and made available by the Idaho peace officer standards and training council. Such application shall contain, at minimum, all of the following:
 - (a) A sworn statement by the law enforcement officer's employing entity that the applicant is in fact a law enforcement officer as defined in subsection (6) of this section;
 - (b) A sworn statement by the law enforcement officer that names such officer's residing household member(s), if any, as defined in subsection (11) of this section;
 - (c) The alternative Idaho mailing address as defined in subsection (1) of this section, and the telephone number or numbers where the law enforcement officer and such officer's residing household member(s) can be contacted by the public agency; and
 - (d) A sworn statement by the law enforcement officer that such officer knowingly and voluntarily designates his or her employing entity as agent for purposes of service of process and receipt of first class, certified or registered mail.
- (3) "County detention officer" means an employee in a county jail who is responsible for the safety, care, protection and monitoring of county jail inmates.
 - (4) "Custodian" as defined in section 74-101, Idaho Code.
- (5) "Federal officer" means a special agent or law enforcement officer who is a resident as defined in section 51-102, Idaho Code, of this state employed by a federal agency and who is empowered to effect an arrest with or without a warrant for violations of the United States Code and who is authorized to carry firearms in the performance of duty.
- (6) "Law enforcement officer" means any current federal officer, peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, correctional officer, county detention officer and any person who prosecutes criminal cases. The term "law enforcement officer" shall not include a person who holds an elected office.
- (7) "Parole officer" means an employee of the Idaho department of correction who is charged with or whose duties include supervision of parolees.
- (8) "Peace officer" means any employee of a police or law enforcement agency which is a part of or administered by the state or any political subdivision thereof and whose duties include and primarily consist of the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of penal, traffic or highway laws of this state or any political subdivision. "Peace officer" also means an employee of a police or law enforcement agency of a federally recog-

nized Indian tribe who has satisfactorily completed the peace officer standards and training academy and has been deputized by a sheriff of a county or a chief of police of a city of the state of Idaho.

- (9) "Probation officer" means an employee of the Idaho department of correction or of the Idaho department of juvenile corrections who is charged with or whose duties include supervision of probationers.
 - (10) "Public agency" as is defined in section 74-101, Idaho Code.
- (11) "Residing household member(s)" means a law enforcement officer's spouse and any child or children who currently reside at the same residential street address as such officer.

SECTION 12. That Section 31-1408, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 31-1408. FIRE PROTECTION BOARD -- APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS -- OATH. (1) There shall be three (3) fire protection commissioners in each district, who shall constitute the fire protection board. The first fire protection commissioners of such fire protection district shall be appointed by the governor. The certificate of such appointment shall be made in triplicate: one (1) certificate shall be filed in the office of the county recorder of the county, one (1) with the clerk of the board of county commissioners, and one (1) with the assessor and tax collector of the county. Every fire protection commissioner and appointed officer shall take and subscribe the official oath, which oath shall be filed in the office of the board of fire protection commissioners. If thirty-three percent (33%) of the area or population in the fire protection district is situated in two (2) or more counties, not more than two (2) of the appointed fire protection district commissioners shall be from the same county.
- (2) The oath of office of fire protection commissioners and appointed officers shall be taken before the secretary or the president of the board of the fire protection district at the first regularly scheduled board meeting in January succeeding each election. Provided however, in the event of an inability to appear for the taking of the oath, a duly elected fire protection commissioner may be sworn in and may subscribe to the oath wherever he may be, provided he appear before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths, and provided further that any person who is in any branch of the armed forces of the United States of America may appear before any person qualified to administer oaths as prescribed in section 55-705 51-113, Idaho Code, and may take and subscribe the oath of office as provided for in section 59-401, Idaho Code, and the oath of office shall have the same force and effect as though it were taken before the secretary or the president of the fire protection district pursuant to this subsection.

SECTION 13. That Section 55-805, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

55-805. ACKNOWLEDGMENT NECESSARY TO AUTHORIZE RECORDING. Before an instrument may be recorded, unless it is otherwise expressly provided, its execution must be acknowledged by the person executing it, or if executed by a corporation, by its president or vice president, or secretary or assistant secretary, or other person executing the same on behalf of the corporation,

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or if executed in the name of the state of Idaho or any county, political subdivision, municipal, quasi-municipal, or public corporation, by one (1) or more of the officers of such state, county, political subdivision, municipal, quasi-municipal, or public corporation executing the same, or if executed in a partnership name, by one (1) or more of the partners who subscribed the partnership name thereto, or if executed by a limited liability company, by the manager, member or other person executing the same on behalf of the limited liability company, or the execution must be proved and the acknowledgment or proof, certified in substantially the manner prescribed by chapter 71, title 551, Idaho Code; provided, that if such instrument shall have been executed and acknowledged in any other state or territory of the United States, or in any foreign country, according to the laws of the state, territory or country wherein such acknowledgment was taken, the same shall be entitled to record, and a certificate of acknowledgment indorsed upon or attached to any such instrument purporting to have been made in any such state, territory or foreign country, shall be prima facie sufficient to entitle the same to such record.

SECTION 14. That Section 59-404, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

COUNTY OFFICERS -- TIME AND PLACE OF TAKING OATH. The oath of office of county elective officers shall be taken by the county commissioners before the county recorders of their respective counties, on the second Monday of January succeeding each general election, and on the same day the other county officers shall take and subscribe the official oath before the chairman of the board. Provided, however, in the event of inability to appear for the taking of the oath, for any reason, a duly elected county official may be sworn in and may subscribe to the oath, wherever he may be, provided he appear before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths, and provided further, that any person who is in any branch of the armed forces of the United States of America, may appear before any person qualified to administer oaths, as prescribed in section 55-705 51-113, Idaho Code, and may take and subscribe the oath of office as provided for in section 59-401, Idaho Code, of this title and chapter, and the oath of office shall have the same force and effect as though it were taken before the county commissioners as herein provided.

SECTION 15. That Section 59-407, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

59-407. INABILITY TO APPEAR -- TAKING OATH. Whenever any elective state official shall be unable to appear for the taking of his oath as provided for in this code, for any reason, including his being a member of the armed forces of the United States, he may be sworn in and may take his oath wherever he may be, before an officer duly authorized to administer oath and if any person duly elected to a state elective position be in the armed forces of the United States of America at the time for taking his oath as provided in this chapter, he may appear before any person qualified to administer an oath, as prescribed in section 55-705 51-113, Idaho Code, and may take the oath of office provided for in section 59-401, Idaho Code, and the oath shall

have the same force and effect as though it were taken before an officer, legally granted the right to administer oaths within the state of Idaho.

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SECTION 16. This act shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2017; except that Sections 5, 6 and 7 shall be in full force and effect on and after October 1, 2018, and Section 51-122, Idaho Code, as set forth in Section 3 of this act, shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2019.