



April 15, 2024

The Honorable Kari Dziedzic
Chair, State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
3113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Senate Bill 5012, Notary Public Issues

Dear Chairperson Dziedzic,

I am writing to share our organization's support for Senate Bill 5012, dealing with various notary public issues.

Senate Bill 5012 streamlines the workflow for a Minnesota notary public to register their intent to perform electronic and remote notarial acts. The bill also clarifies that changes to state-prescribed information elements ("format") that must appear in a notary public's official stamp do not invalidate the stamp in use during a notary's current commission term. An already-commissioned notary would obtain a stamp reflecting any updated elements/format upon commission renewal.

Though some prescribed details might change, a notary's official stamp (whenever it has been issued) will always reflect the most essential information about the notary and their commission: name as commissioned, commissioning state, and duration of the current commission. Allowing a notary public to continue using their existing stamp through their current term of office—rather than change to an updated stamp midterm—avoids any possible confusion over different stamp images on documents notarized during the same commission term, reduces commission management steps for notaries and their employers, and makes good sense from both a fiscal and workflow management perspective.

We appreciate your, and the Committee's, consideration of support for Senate Bill 5012.

Kind regards,

Kathleen Butler, Executive Director
American Society of Notaries
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cc: The Honorable Steve A. Cwodziński