

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 847 (Delegate McDonough)  
Health and Government Operations

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**State Government - Notary Public - Requirements**

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This bill requires a notary public to be a U.S. citizen. An applicant for a notary public commission must submit certain documentation to establish that they are a U.S. citizen.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's changes are technical in nature and do not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** All applications for notary public commissions must be approved by the State senator representing the senatorial district in which an applicant resides. If the senate seat for the district in which an applicant resides is vacant, any State senator may approve the application. The Secretary of State approves applications only for notary public commissions from out-of-state applicants, which must also be approved by any State senator. Additionally, the Secretary of State's office processes applications for commissions that have been approved by State senators representing the applicants. Once a notary public application is approved, the Governor appoints and commissions all notaries public.

Current qualifications for a notary public include:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be of good moral character and integrity; and
- live or work in the State.

**Background:** In fiscal 2009, the Secretary of State's office processed 22,010 notary public commissions. It is unknown as to how many of these commissions are U.S. citizens.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Secretary of State, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2010  
ncs/hlb

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