

HOUSE BILL 985

P1

8lr2839
CF SB 280

By: **Delegate Platt**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and Electronic Notarization**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and
4 Electronic Notarization; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of
9 State, and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Notary
11 Laws and Remote and Electronic Notarization.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and Electronic
15 Notarization.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House;

21 (3) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee; and

22 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

23 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Realtors;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association;
- 2 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Mortgage Bankers
3 Association;
- 4 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Land Title Association;
- 5 (v) one representative of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks'
6 Association;
- 7 (vi) one representative of the Maryland Real Estate Commission;
- 8 (vii) one representative of an organization that advocates for notaries
9 public in Maryland; and
- 10 (viii) one representative of a private sector electronic notary business.

11 (c) The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the chair of the
12 Task Force.

13 (d) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide staff for the Task Force.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
17 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) study the practices of remote notarization and electronic notarization
20 in other jurisdictions; and

21 (2) make recommendations regarding the feasibility of authorizing remote
22 notarization or electronic notarization in the State.

23 (g) On or before December 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of State, and, in accordance with § 2-1246
25 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2019, this
28 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
29 further force and effect.