

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 916 (Delegate Dwyer, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Secretary of State - Notary Public - Fees**

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This bill raises the limit on fees for an original notarial act from \$2 to \$4.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Fees for notary services are collected and kept by the notaries who provide the services.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Small businesses and individuals could pay slightly higher fees to have documents notarized. Revenues for individuals serving as notaries public could increase.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Secretary of State is required to adopt regulations establishing fees for notary services that do not exceed \$2 per original notarial act.

Notaries public are appointed by the Governor upon the approval of their application by the Senator representing the senatorial district in which they reside. Applicants pay a processing fee of \$20, which was raised from \$11 in 2003. Notaries must be at least 18 years old, be of good moral character and integrity, and live or work in the State. Their commissions last for four years, after which they may apply for reappointment by the Secretary of State.

**Background:** There are approximately 87,000 notaries public in Maryland. Their fee was last raised in 1982 to its current level of \$2.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 332 of 2006, an identical bill, passed the Senate and was heard by the House Health and Government Matters Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2007  
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