

SENATE BILL 253

N2

3lr1491
CF HB 244

By: Senator Hester

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Estates and Trusts – Registers of Wills – Electronic Filing and Signatures**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a register of wills to accept certain documents filed
4 electronically through a system established by the register of wills; prohibiting a
5 register of wills from refusing to accept a document based on the manner in which it
6 was signed; and generally relating to the filing of documents with a register of wills.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Estates and Trusts

9 Section 2-214

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Estates and Trusts**

15 **2-214.**

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELECTRONIC”, “SIGN”, AND “WILL” HAVE THE
17 MEANINGS STATED IN § 4-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

18 (B) (1) A REGISTER SHALL ACCEPT ANY DOCUMENT, EXCEPT AN
19 ORIGINAL WILL, THAT IS FILED:

20 (I) ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH A SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY
21 THE REGISTER; AND

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND RULES.

2 (2) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT
3 THE FILING OF A DOCUMENT IN PAPER FORM WITH A REGISTER.

4 **(C) A REGISTER MAY NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY DOCUMENT BASED ON**
5 **THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS SIGNED.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2023.