

Chapter 661

(House Bill 244)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY adding to

Article – Estates and Trusts

Section 2–214

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – Estates and Trusts

2–214.

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

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

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

(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND RULES.

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.