

SENATE BILL 700

P1, O3

5lr2343

By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Notarial Acts – Reasonable Accommodations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a notary public to provide certain reasonable accommodations
4 to individuals with a physical disability that limits the individual’s ability to sign a
5 record without assistance; and generally relating to the provision of reasonable
6 accommodations for notarial acts.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 18–106

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 18–208

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 **18–106.**

21 **(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER LAW, A NOTARY PUBLIC SHALL PROVIDE**
22 **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY**
23 **THAT LIMITS THE INDIVIDUAL’S ABILITY TO SIGN A RECORD WITHOUT ASSISTANCE,**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 INCLUDING THE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF
2 THIS SECTION.

3 (B) A NOTARY PUBLIC SHALL NOTARIZE THE SIGNATURE OF AN INDIVIDUAL
4 WHO IS BLIND AFTER THE NOTARY PUBLIC READS THE ENTIRE RECORD TO THAT
5 INDIVIDUAL AND THE INDIVIDUAL ASSENTS TO THE NOTARIZATION AFTER THE
6 READING.

7 18–208.

8 (a) If an individual is physically unable to sign a record, the individual may
9 appear before the notarial officer and direct another individual other than the notarial
10 officer who is concurrently appearing with the individual before the notarial officer to sign
11 the individual’s name on the record.

12 (b) If another individual is directed to sign an individual’s name under subsection
13 (a) of this section, the notarial officer shall insert on the record the following words or words
14 of similar import: “Signature affixed by (name of other individual) at the direction of (name
15 of individual)”.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2025.