

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 164
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3036 • 410-841-3036
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036
Fax 301-858-3060 • 410-841-3060
Anne.Kaiser@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of
House Bill 663: State Government – Notarial Acts – Fees and Use of Communication
Technology
March 1st, 2022

Madam Chair Pendergrass and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 663: State Government – Notarial Acts – Fees and Use of Communication Technology**. This bill is similar to legislation offered by Delegate Wanika Fisher from 2021. It seeks to make notarization easier, more streamlined and meet the updated realities of working virtually.

This bill has four main provisions: 1) Simplifies the process for *identity proofing* when the notary personally knows the person signing a form. 2) Extends the right to *electronic notarization* for wills and trusts. Other documents have been able to have electronic notarization since 2020. 3) Permits *remote ink notarizations*, a process that was temporarily allowed through an Executive Order. The requirements for videotaping would remain unchanged. 4) Provides authority to the Secretary of State to increase notary fees, up to, but not more than \$25 per transaction. Given that notaries rely on outside vendors, who charge more than the current \$4 fee/transaction, there is clearly a need to allow the Secretary of State to consider increasing those fees.

This bill has broad support from stakeholders and helps bring notaries into the 21st century. While this bill makes online notarizations easier, it does keep important safeguards in place.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 663**. Thank you.