

SENATE BILL 280

P1

8lr2230
CF HB 985

By: **Senators Norman and Feldman**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2018

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and Electronic Notarization**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and
4 Electronic Notarization; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of
9 State, and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Notary
11 Laws and Remote and Electronic Notarization.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Notary Laws and Remote and Electronic
15 Notarization.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (3) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee; ~~and~~

2 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Realtors;

4 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association;

5 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Mortgage Bankers and
6 Brokers Association;

7 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Land Title Association;

8 (v) ~~one representative of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks'~~
9 ~~Association;~~

10 ~~(vi)~~ one representative of the Maryland Real Estate Commission;

11 ~~(vii)~~ (vi) one representative of an organization that advocates for
12 notaries public in Maryland; ~~and~~

13 ~~(viii)~~ (vii) one representative of a private sector electronic notary
14 business;

15 (viii) one representative of the Maryland State Bar Association; and

16 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Automobile Dealers
17 Association; and

18 (5) one member of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, appointed by the
19 Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

20 (c) The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the chair of the
21 Task Force.

22 (d) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide staff for the Task Force.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) study the practices of remote notarization and electronic notarization
2 in other jurisdictions; ~~and~~

3 (2) make recommendations regarding the feasibility of authorizing remote
4 notarization or electronic notarization in the State; and

5 (3) study and make recommendations regarding reasonable fees for notary
6 services.

7 (g) On or before December 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
8 recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of State, and, in accordance with § 2-1246
9 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2019, this
12 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
13 further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.