

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4352

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 8, 2019

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to providing for electronic notarization

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 137-a  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 137-a. Electronic notarization. 1. Definitions. (a) "Electronic"  
4 shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdivision one of section  
5 three hundred two of the state technology law.

6 (b) "Electronic document" means information that is created, gener-  
7 ated, sent, communicated, received or stored by electronic means.

8 (c) "Electronic notarial act" means an official act by a notary public  
9 on or involving an electronic document and using means authorized by the  
10 secretary of state.

11 (d) "Electronic notary public" or "electronic notary" means a notary  
12 public who has registered with the secretary of state the capability of  
13 performing electronic notarial acts.

14 (e) "Electronic signature" shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
15 subdivision three of section three hundred two of the state technology  
16 law.

17 (f) "Electronic notarial statement of authority" means the portion of  
18 a notarized electronic document that is completed by a notary public and  
19 contains the notary public's electronic signature and all information  
20 required by section one hundred thirty-seven of this article.

21 (g) "Notary electronic signature" means those forms of electronic  
22 signature, which have been approved by the secretary of state as an  
23 acceptable means for an electronic notary to affix the notary public's  
24 official signature to an electronic record that is being notarized.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1     2. Identifying document signers. (a) The methods for identifying  
2 document signers for an electronic notarization shall be the same as the  
3 methods required for a paper-based notarization; provided, however, in  
4 the case of an electronic notarization, such methods may be based on  
5 video and audio conference technology that meet the following standards:

6     (i) the persons communicating shall simultaneously see and speak to  
7 one another;

8     (ii) the signal transmission shall be in live, real time;

9     (iii) the signal transmission shall be secure from interception  
10 through lawful means by anyone other than the persons communicating; and

11     (iv) the technology shall permit the notary to communicate with and  
12 identify the document signer at the time of the notarial act, provided  
13 that such identification is confirmed by:

14     (A) personal knowledge;

15     (B) an antecedent in-person identity proofing process in accordance  
16 with the specifications of the Federal Bridge Certification Authority;  
17 or

18     (C) a valid digital certificate accessed by biometric data or by use  
19 of an interoperable Personal Identity Verification card that is  
20 designed, issued, and managed in accordance with the specifications  
21 published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in  
22 Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 201-1, "Personal  
23 Identity Verification (PIV) of Federal Employees and Contractors", and  
24 supplements thereto or revisions thereof, including the specifications  
25 published by the Federal Chief Information Officers Council in "Personal  
26 Identity Verification Interoperability for Non-Federal Issuers".

27     (b) If video and audio conference technology has been used to ascer-  
28 tain a document signer's identity, the electronic notary shall keep a  
29 copy of the recording of the video and audio conference and a notation  
30 of the type of any other identification used. The recording shall be  
31 maintained for a period of at least five years from the date of trans-  
32 action.

33     3. Registration requirements. (a) Before performing any electronic  
34 notarial act or acts, a notary public shall register the capability to  
35 notarize electronically with the secretary of state on a form prescribed  
36 by the secretary of state.

37     (b) In registering the capability to perform electronic notarial acts,  
38 the notary public shall provide the following information to the secre-  
39 tary of state, notary processing unit:

40     (i) the applicant's name as currently commissioned and complete mail-  
41 ing address;

42     (ii) the expiration date of the notary public's commission and signa-  
43 ture of the commissioned notary public;

44     (iii) the applicant's e-mail address;

45     (iv) the description of the electronic technology or technologies to  
46 be used in attaching the notary public's electronic signature to the  
47 electronic document; and

48     (v) an exemplar of the notary public's electronic signature, which  
49 shall contain the notary public's name and any necessary instructions or  
50 techniques that allow the notary public's electronic signature to be  
51 read.

52     4. Types of electronic notarial acts. Any notarial act authorized by  
53 section one hundred thirty-five of this article may be performed elec-  
54 tronically as prescribed by this section if under applicable law that  
55 document may be signed with an electronic signature.

1 5. Form and manner of performing the electronic notarial act. (a) When  
2 performing an electronic notarial act, a notary public shall apply an  
3 electronic signature, which shall be attached to or logically associated  
4 with the electronic document such that removal or alteration of such  
5 electronic signature is detectable and will render evidence of alter-  
6 ation of the document containing the notary signature which may invali-  
7 date the electronic notarial act.

8 (b) The notary public's electronic signature is deemed to be reliable  
9 if the following requirements are met: (i) it is unique to the notary  
10 public;

11 (ii) it is capable of independent verification;

12 (iii) it is retained under the notary public's sole control;

13 (iv) it is attached to or logically associated with the electronic  
14 document; and

15 (v) it is linked to the data in such a manner that any subsequent  
16 alterations to the underlying document are detectable and may invalidate  
17 the electronic notarial act.

18 (c) The notary public's electronic signature shall be used only for  
19 the purpose of performing electronic notarial acts.

20 (d) The secretary shall adopt rules necessary to establish standards,  
21 procedures, practices, forms, and records relating to a notary public's  
22 electronic signature. The notary public's electronic signature shall  
23 conform to any standards adopted by the secretary.

24 6. Change of e-mail address. Within five days after the change of an  
25 electronic notary public's e-mail address, the notary public shall elec-  
26 tronically transmit to the secretary of state a notice of the change,  
27 signed with the notary public's official electronic signature.

28 § 2. Section 136 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
29 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

30 3. For electronic notarial services, except where another fee is  
31 specifically prescribed by statute, a fee not in excess of those speci-  
32 fied within this section.

33 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
34 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
35 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
36 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before  
37 such effective date.