

SB0139

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0139 but was inserted into SB0139S01

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Notary Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman
House Sponsor:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ modifies requirements for providing satisfactory evidence of identity;
- ▶ {~~when an existing~~} for a notary who, on or after May 6, 2026, receives a notary commission {~~is~~ received} , or {~~when~~} receives a new notary commission {~~is obtained~~} :
 - implements a requirement for the notary to keep a {~~notary~~} journal; and
 - modifies requirements for the content of a {~~notary~~} journal;
- ▶ modifies requirements relating to the retention of a journal or an electronic recording {~~relating to~~ journal} of a remote {~~notary~~} notarization;
- ▶ provides that a {~~notary~~} journal or an electronic recording {~~relating to~~} of a {~~notary journal~~} note notarization are not records under the Government Records Access and Management Act;
- ▶ describes the circumstances under which a {~~notary~~} journal may be inspected;

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- 19 ▸ makes it a crime to, without legal authority, use, forge, or take certain other actions in relation to
a notarization, a { ~~notary~~ } journal, an official seal, or other items relating to notarization;
- 22 ▸ describes the action that a notary is required to take upon discovery of:
- 23 • a crime described in this bill; or
- 24 • the loss, damage, or destruction of a { ~~notary~~ } journal or related items;
- 25 ▸ exempts attorneys { ~~and~~ } , law firms , and title agencies from certain requirements relating to a
{ ~~notary~~ } journal; and
- 27 ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

46-1-2 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

46-1-3.6 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

46-1-3.7 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

46-1-6 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

46-1-13 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

46-1-14 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

46-1-15 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

46-1-16 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

ENACTS:

46-1-14.1 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

REPEALS:

46-1-1 , as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 1988, Chapter 222

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **46-1-2** is amended to read:

46-1-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

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- 51 (1) "Acknowledgment" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a signer, whose identity is
personally known to the notary or proven on the basis of satisfactory evidence, has admitted, in the
presence of the notary, to voluntarily signing a document for the document's stated purpose.
- 55 (2) "Before me" means that an individual appears in the presence of the notary.
- 56 (3) "Commission" means:
- 57 (a) to empower to perform notarial acts; or
- 58 (b) the written document that gives authority to perform notarial acts, including the Certificate of
Authority of Notary Public that the lieutenant governor issues to a notary.
- 61 (4) "Copy certification" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a photocopy is an accurate
copy of a document that is neither a public record nor publicly recorded.
- 63 (5) ~~{ "Detailed record" }~~ "Electronic journal" means an electronic journal of { the } notarial { act" means
} acts that a { record of the following, recorded in the notary's notary journal: } remote notary is
required to keep under Subsection 46-1-13(1)(c) or (2)(b).
- 65 [(5)] (6) { if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs
the notarial act is of the type described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(A) or (B), a description of the
identification that states: }
- 68 { (i) } { the identification type; }
- 69 { (ii) } { the issuing agency of the identification; }
- 70 { (iii) } { the identification number; }
- 71 { (iv) } { the date the identification was issued; and }
- 72 { (v) } { the date the identification expires; }
- 73 { (b) } { if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs the
notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(C): }
- 75 { (i) } { the oath or affirmation of the credible individual, including the individual's signature; }
- 77 { (ii) } { a statement that the individual described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) is a credible individual whom
the notary personally knows; and }
- 79 { (iii) } { the printed name and address of the credible individual; }
- 80 { (c) } { if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs the
notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D): }
- 82 { (i) } { the oath or affirmation of the credible individual, including the individual's signature, that: }
- 84 { (A) } { verifies the identity of the individual seeking the notarial act; and }

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- 85 {~~(B)~~} {~~states that the credible individual personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act;~~}
- 87 {~~(ii)~~} {~~the printed name and address of the credible individual; and~~}
- 88 {~~(iii)~~} {~~the identification, described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D)(III), of the credible individual; and~~}
- 90 {~~(d)~~} {~~for a remote notarization only, in addition to the information required under Subsections (5)(a) through (c), a record of the secondary authentication of identity.~~}
- 92 {~~(5)~~} (6) "Electronic notarization" means:
- 93 (a) a remote notarization; or
- 94 (b) a notarization:
- 95 (i) in an electronic format;
- 96 (ii) of a document that may be recorded electronically under Subsection 17-71-402(2); and
- 98 (iii) that conforms with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7.
- 99 [~~(6)~~] (7) "Electronic recording of a remote notarization" means [~~the~~] an audio and video recording~~;~~
~~described in Subsection 46-1-3.6(3),]~~ of the performance of a remote notarization.
- 101 [~~(7)~~] (8) "Electronic seal" means an electronic version of the seal described in Section 46-1-16, that conforms with rules made under Subsection 46-1-3.7(1)(d), that a notary may attach to a notarial certificate to complete an electronic notarization.
- 104 [~~(8)~~] (9) "Electronic signature" means the same as that term is defined in Section 46-4-102.
- 105 [~~(9)~~] (10) "In the presence of the notary" means that an individual:
- 106 (a) is physically present with the notary in close enough proximity to see and hear the notary; or
- 108 (b) communicates with a remote notary by means of an electronic device or process that:
- 109 (i) allows the individual and remote notary to communicate with one another simultaneously by sight and sound; and
- 111 (ii) complies with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7.
- 86 (11)
- (a) "Journal" means:
- 87 (i) a physical journal of notarial acts that a notary keeps under Subsection 46-1-13(1)(a) or (2)(a);
or
- 89 (ii) an electronic journal.
- 90 (b) "Journal" does not include an electronic recording of a remote notarization.
- 112 [~~(10)~~] (11){(12)} "Jurat" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies:
- 113 (a) the identity of a signer who:

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(i) is personally known to the notary; or

(ii) provides the notary satisfactory evidence of the signer's identity;

(b) that the signer affirms or swears an oath attesting to the truthfulness of a document; and

(c) that the signer voluntarily signs the document in the presence of the notary.

~~[(11)] (12)~~ (13) "Notarial act" ~~[-or "notarization"]~~ means ~~[-an act that a notary is authorized to perform under Section 46-1-6.]~~ :

(a) a jurat;

(b) an acknowledgment;

(c) a signature witnessing;

(d) a copy certification; or

(e) an oath or affirmation.

~~[(12)] (13)~~ (14) "Notarial certificate" means the affidavit described in Section 46-1-6.5 that is:

(a) a part of or attached to a notarized document; and

(b) completed by the notary and bears the notary's signature and official seal.

~~(14)~~ (15) "Notarization" means the performance of a notarial act.

~~(15)~~ (16) "Notarized" means that a notarial act or notarization is completed for a record or proceeding.

~~[(13)] (16)~~ (17)

(a) "Notary" means an individual commissioned to perform notarial acts under this chapter.

(b) "Notary" includes a remote notary.

~~{(17) {"Notary journal" means a journal, including a remote notary electronic journal, that a notary:} }~~

~~{(a) {keeps under Subsection 46-1-13 (1)(a); or} }~~

~~{(b) {is required to keep under Subsection 46-1-13 (2) and Section 46-1-14.} }~~

(18) "Notary public" means the same as notary.

~~[(14)] (19)~~ "Oath" or "affirmation" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a person made a vow or affirmation in the presence of the notary on penalty of perjury.

~~[(15)] (20)~~ "Official misconduct" means a notary's performance of any act prohibited or failure to perform any act mandated by this chapter or by any other law in connection with a notarial act.

~~[(16)] (21)~~

(a) "Official seal" means the seal described in Section 46-1-16 that a notary may attach to a notarial certificate to complete a notarization.

(b) "Official seal" includes an electronic seal.

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- 148 ~~[(17)]~~ (22) "Personally ~~[known]~~ knows" means familiarity with an individual resulting from interactions
with that individual over a period of time sufficient to eliminate every reasonable doubt that the
individual has the identity claimed.
- 151 ~~[(18)]~~ (23) "Remote notarization" means a notarial act performed by a remote notary in accordance with
this chapter for an individual who is not in the physical presence of the remote notary at the time the
remote notary performs the notarial act.
- 154 ~~[(19)]~~ (24) "Remote notary" means a notary that holds an active remote notary certification under
Section 46-1-3.5.
- 156 ~~[(20)~~
- 157 ~~(a) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" means:]~~
- 159 ~~[(i) for both an in-person and remote notarization, identification of an individual based on:]~~
- 159 ~~[(A) subject to Subsection (20)(b), valid personal identification with the individual's photograph,~~
signature, and physical description that the United States government, any state within the United
States, or a foreign government issues;]
- 163 ~~[(B) subject to Subsection (20)(b), a valid passport that any nation issues; or]~~
- 164 ~~[(C) the oath or affirmation of a credible person who is personally known to the notary and who~~
personally knows the individual; and]
- 166 ~~[(ii) for a remote notarization only, a third party's affirmation of an individual's identity in~~
accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7 by means of:]
- 168 ~~[(A) dynamic knowledge-based authentication, which may include requiring the individual to answer~~
questions about the individual's personal information obtained from public or proprietary data
sources; or]
- 171 ~~[(B) analysis of the individual's biometric data, which may include facial recognition, voiceprint~~
analysis, or fingerprint analysis.]
- 173 ~~[(b) "Satisfactory evidence of identity," for a remote notarization, requires the identification described~~
in Subsection (20)(a)(i)(A) or passport described in Subsection (20)(a)(i)(B) to be verified through
public or proprietary data sources in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7.]
- 177 ~~[(c) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" does not include:]~~
- 178 ~~[(i) a driving privilege card under Subsection 53-3-207(12); or]~~
- 179 ~~[(ii) another document that is not considered valid for identification.]~~
- 180 (25)

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(a) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" means:

(i) for both in-person and remote notarization, identification of an individual based on:

(A) unexpired personal identification that:

(I) includes the individual's photograph, signature, and physical description; and

(A){(II)} {unexpired personal identification with the individual's photograph, signature, and physical description,} is issued by the United States government, the government of a state {within} , district, territory, or possession of the United States, {or} a {foreign} federally-recognized tribal government, {that is verified through public} or {proprietary data sources in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7} a foreign government;

(B) an unexpired passport{-} issued by any nation{, that is verified through public or proprietary data sources in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7} ;

(C) the oath or affirmation of a credible {person-} individual whom the notary personally knows and who personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act; or

(D) the oath or affirmation of a credible individual who:

(I) personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act;

(II) the notary does not personally know; and

(III) provides the notary with the credible individual's identification described in Subsection (25)(a)(i) (A) or (B); and

(ii) for a remote notarization only, in addition to a method of identification described in Subsection (25)(a)(i), secondary authentication of identity of:

(A) except as provided in Subsection (25)(a)(ii)(B), the individual seeking the notarial act; or

(B) the credible individual described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D), if the individual seeking the notarial act is identified under the method of identification described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D).

(b) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" does not include:

(i) a driving privilege card under Subsection 53-3-207(12); or

(ii) a document other than a document described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(A) or (B).

(26) "Secondary authentication of identity" means a third party's {affirmation} verification of an individual's identity, in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7, by means of:

(a) dynamic knowledge-based authentication, which may include requiring the individual to answer questions about the individual's personal information obtained from public or proprietary data sources; or

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(b) analysis of the individual's biometric data, which may include facial recognition, voiceprint analysis, or fingerprint analysis.

[(21)] (27) "Signature witnessing" means a notarial act in which an individual:

(a) appears in the presence of the notary and presents a document;

(b) provides the notary satisfactory evidence of the individual's identity, or is personally known to the notary; and

(c) signs the document in the presence of the notary.

(28) "Title agency" means a person that provides title insurance, as defined in Section 31A-1-301.

Section 2. Section **46-1-3.6** is amended to read:

46-1-3.6. Remote notarization procedures.

(1) A remote notary who receives a remote notary certification under Section 46-1-3.5 may perform a remote notarization if the remote notary is physically located in this state.

(2) A remote notary that performs a remote notarization for an individual that is not personally known to the remote notary shall, at the time the remote notary performs the remote notarization, establish satisfactory evidence of identity for the individual by:

(a) communicating with the individual using an electronic device or process that:

(i) allows the individual and remote notary to communicate with one another simultaneously by sight and sound; and

(ii) complies with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7; and

(b) requiring the individual to transmit to the remote notary an image of a form of identification described in Subsection [46-1-2(20)(a)(i)(A) or passport described in Subsection 46-1-2(20)(a)(i)(B)] ~~{ } 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A) or (B) }~~ 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A) or (B) that is of sufficient quality for the remote notary to establish satisfactory evidence of identity.

(3)

(a) A remote notary shall create an {~~electronic~~} ~~[audio and video recording of the performance]~~ electronic recording of each remote notarization and store the recording in accordance with Sections [46-1-14] 46-1-41.1 and 46-1-15.

(b) A remote notary shall take reasonable steps, consistent with industry standards, to ensure that any non-public data transmitted or stored in connection with a remote notarization performed by the remote notary is secure from unauthorized interception or disclosure.

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- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a remote notarization lawfully performed under this chapter satisfies any provision of state law that requires an individual to personally appear before, or be in the presence of, a notary at the time the notary performs a notarial act.

Section 3. Section **46-1-3.7** is amended to read:

46-1-3.7. Rulemaking authority for electronic notarization.

- (1) The director of elections in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, regarding standards for and types of:

(a) electronic software and hardware that:

(i) a notary may use to perform an electronic notarization; and

(ii) a remote notary may use to keep an electronic journal under Section 46-1-13;

(b) public and proprietary data sources that a remote notary may use to establish satisfactory evidence of identity under Subsection ~~[46-1-2(20)(b)]~~ 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A) or (B);

(c) dynamic knowledge-based authentication or biometric data analysis that a remote notary may use to establish ~~[satisfactory evidence of identity under Subsection 46-1-2(20)(a)(ii)]~~ secondary authentication of identity; and

(d) electronic seals a notary may use to complete an electronic notarial certificate.

- (2) When making a rule under this section, the director of elections in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall review and consider standards recommended by one or more national organizations that address the governance or operation of notaries.

Section 4. Section **46-1-6** is amended to read:

46-1-6. Powers and limitations.

- (1) A notary may perform the following notarial acts:

(a) a jurat;

(b) an acknowledgment;

(c) a signature witnessing;

(d) a copy certification; and

(e) an oath or affirmation.

- (2) A notary may not:

(a) perform an act as a notary that is not described in Subsection (1); or

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- (b) perform an act described in Subsection (1) if the individual for whom the notary performs the notarial act is not in the presence of the notary at the time the notary performs the act.

Section 5. Section **46-1-13** is amended to read:

46-1-13. {Notary journal} Journal required -- Exceptions.

- (1) [A-] For a notary other than a notary described in Subsection (2):

(a) the notary may keep, maintain, [and-]protect[-as-a-public-record], and provide for lawful inspection a chronological, permanently bound official {notary-}journal of notarial acts, containing numbered pages[-:] ;

(b) if the notary keeps a {notary-} journal under Subsection (1)(a), Subsections (3) and (4) apply in relation to the {notary-} journal;

[(2)] (c) [A] a remote notary shall keep a secure electronic {notary-}journal of each remote notarization the notary performs[-:] ; and

(d) Subsections (3) and (4) apply in relation to an electronic {notary-} journal described in Subsection (1)(c).

(2) A notary who receives a commission, or a {renewal-of-a-} new commission, on or after May 6, 2026:

(a) shall, in accordance with Section 46-1-14, keep, in a secure location, a physical {notary-} journal of each notarial act, other than a remote notarization, that the notary performs;

(b) shall, in accordance with Section 46-1-14, keep a secure electronic {notary-} journal of each remote notarization that the notary performs; and

(c) is subject to the provisions of Subsections (3) and (4) in relation to the notary's {notary-} journal.

(3)

(a) A notary shall retain a {notary-} journal for 10 years after the day on which the notary records the last notarial act in the {notary-} journal, regardless of whether the notary ceases to be a notary.

(b) Following the 10-year period described in Subsection (3)(a), the notary shall destroy the {notary-} journal by shredding or another means of destruction that renders all information in the {notary-} journal illegible.

(c) A remote notary shall maintain, or ensure that a person that the notary designates as a custodian under Subsection 46-1-15(2)(b)(i) maintains, {a-notary-} an electronic journal, and {the-electronic recordings relating to the notary journal} each electronic recording of a remote notarization, for

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10 years after the day on which the notary records the last notarial act in the {notary} journal, regardless of whether the notary ceases to be a notary.

(d) Following the 10-year period described in Subsection (3)(c), the notary shall destroy, or ensure that the custodian designated under Subsection 46-1-15(2)(b)(i) erases and overwrites, or otherwise destroys, the electronic {notary} journal, and, for each remote notarization recorded in the journal, the electronic {recordings relating to} recording of the {notary journal} remote notarization, including all backups {of the notary journal and the electronic recordings relating to the notary journal} , by a means that renders all of the data irretrievable.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter:

(a) a notary who is employed by an attorney or a law firm is not required to keep a {notary} journal of notarial acts performed by the notary in the course and scope of the notary's employment by the attorney or law firm;

(b) a {notary} journal or other record of a notarial act performed by the notary in the course and scope of the notary's employment by the attorney or law firm is the property of the attorney or law firm and is not subject to disclosure or inspection by the lieutenant governor; {and}

(c) the provisions of this chapter do not require an attorney or law firm to take any action that would constitute a violation of the attorney-client privilege{-};

(d) a notary who is employed by a title agency is not required to keep a journal of notarial acts performed by the notary in the course and scope of the notary's employment by the title agency; and

(e) a journal or other record of a notarial act performed by the notary in the course and scope of the notary's employment by a title agency is the property of the title agency and is not subject to disclosure or inspection by the lieutenant governor.

Section 6. Section **46-1-14** is amended to read:

46-1-14. Sunsetting provisions for entries in {notary} journal -- Required information.

(1) This section applies only to a notary described in Subsection 46-1-13(1).

[(+)] (2) A notary may, for each notarial act the notary performs, and a remote notary shall, for each notarial act the remote notary performs remotely, record the following information in the {notary} journal described in Section 46-1-13 at the time of notarization:

(a) the date and time of day of the notarial act;

(b) the type of notarial act;

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(c) the type title, or a description of the document, electronic record, or proceeding that is the subject of the notarial act;

(d) the signature and printed name and address of each individual for whom a notarial act is performed;

(e) the evidence of identity of each individual for whom a notarial act is performed, in the form of:

(i) a statement that the person is personally known to the notary;

(ii) a description of the identification document and the identification document's issuing agency, serial or identification number, and date of issuance or expiration;

(iii) the signature and printed name and address of a credible ~~[witness]~~ individual swearing or affirming to the person's identity; or

(iv) if used for a remote notarization, a description of the ~~[dynamic knowledge-based authentication or biometric data analysis that was used to provide satisfactory evidence of identity under Subsection 46-1-2(20)(a)(ii)]~~ secondary authentication of identity used for the remote notarization; and

(f) the fee, if any, the notary charged for the notarial act.

~~[(2)]~~ (3) A notary may record in the { ~~notary~~ } journal a description of the circumstances under which the notary refused to perform or complete a notarial act.

~~[(3)]~~ (4)

~~[(a)]~~ A remote notary shall include ~~[with the { notary } journal]~~ , for each electronic notarization recorded in the electronic journal, a copy of the electronic recording of the remote notarization.

~~[(b) The electronic recording is not a public record and is not a part of the notary's journal.]~~

~~[(4) A remote notary shall maintain, or ensure that a person that the notary designates as a custodian under Subsection 46-1-15(2)(b)(i) maintains, for a period of five years, the information described in Subsections (1) and (3) for each remote notarization the notary performs.]~~

Section 7. Section 7 is enacted to read:

46-1-14.1. Entries in {notary} journal -- Required information.

(1) This section applies to a notary who receives a commission, or a {renewal of a} new commission, on or after May 6, 2026.

(2) A {notary} journal shall:

(a) unless the journal is an electronic journal, consist of one or more permanently bound records, with each page listed in chronological order; and

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(b) subject to Subsection (4), consist of a chronological record of each notarial act that the notary performs, completed by the notary at the time the notary completes the notarial act, including the following for each notarial act:

(i) the date and time of the notarial act;

(ii) the type of notarial act performed;

(iii)

(A) the title of the record for which the notary performs the notarial act; or

(B) a description of the record or proceeding for which the notary performs the notarial act;

(iv) if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs the notarial act is of the type described in Subsection 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A) or (B), a description of the identification that states:

(A) the identification type;

(B) the issuing agency of the identification;

(C) the last four digits of the identification number;

(D) the date the identification was issued; and

(E) the date the identification expires;

(v) if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs the notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(C):

(A) an indication that the notary administered an oath or affirmation to the credible individual, including the individual's signature;

(B) a statement that the individual described in Subsection (2)(b)(v)(A) is a credible individual whom the notary personally knows; and

(C) the printed name and address of the credible individual;

(vi) if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary performs the notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(D):

(A) an indication that the notary administered the oath or affirmation to the credible individual, including the individual's signature, to verify:

(I) the identity of the individual seeking the notarial act; and

(II) that the credible individual personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act;

(B) the printed name and address of the credible individual; and

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(C) a description of the identification, described in Subsection 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(D)(III), of the credible individual that states:

(I) the identification type;

(II) the issuing agency of the identification;

(III) the last four digits of the identification number;

(IV) the date the identification was issued; and

(V) the date the identification expires;

(vii) for a remote notarization only, in addition to the information required under Subsections (2)(b)(iv) through (vi), a record of the secondary authentication of identity;

(viii) if the notary administered an oath or affirmation, an indication that the notary administered the oath or affirmation;

(iv){(ix)} the signature, printed name, and address of the individual for whom the notary performs the notarial act;and

{(v) {a detailed record of the notarial act;}-}

{(vi) {if the notary administered an oath, an indication that the notary administered the oath; and}-}

(vii){(x)} the fee charged, if any, by the notary.

(3) A remote notary shall, for each electronic notarization performed by the remote notary:

(a) record in the remote notary's electronic {notary} journal, the information described in Subsection (2)(b); and

(b) include with the notary's electronic {notary} journal a copy of the electronic recording of the remote notarization.

(4)

(a) A notary may make a single entry in a {notary} journal to document more than one notarial act if the notarial acts are performed for the same individual at the same time on:

(i) one record; or

(ii) similar records.

(b) When performing a notarial act for an individual, a notary is not required to have the individual sign the {notary} journal if:

(i) the notary has performed a notarial act for the individual within 180 days before the day on which the notary performs the notarial act;

(ii) the notary has personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;

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- 395 (iii) the individual is an employer or a coworker of the notary;
396 (iv) the notarial act relates to a transaction performed in the ordinary course of the individual's business;
and
398 (v) the notary enters "known personally" in place of the evidence otherwise required for the detailed
record described in Subsection (2)(b)(v).
- 400 (5) If a notary or remote notary refuses to perform or complete a notarial act, the notary shall record in
the {notary} journal:
- 402 (a) the information described in Subsection (2)(b) that the notary was able to obtain; and
403 (b) a description of the reason the notary refused to perform or complete the notarial act.
- 417 Section 8. Section **46-1-15** is amended to read:
- 418 **46-1-15. Inspection of {notary} journal -- Safekeeping and custody of {notary} journal --**
Nature of record.
- 407 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), ~~[if a notary maintains a journal, the]~~ a notary shall:
- 409 (a) keep the notary's {notary} journal in the notary's exclusive custody; and
410 (b) ensure that the {notary} journal is not used by any other person for any purpose.
- 411 (2)
- (a) A remote notary shall:
- 412 [(i) ensure that the electronic journal and electronic recording described in Section 46-1-14 that is
maintained by the remote notary is a secure and authentic record of the remote notarizations that
the notary performs;]
- 415 [(ii) maintain a backup electronic journal and electronic recording; and]
- 416 [(iii) protect the backup electronic journal and electronic recording described in Subsection (2)(a)
(ii) from unauthorized access or use.]
- 418 (i) ensure that the electronic {notary} journal, and the **electronic recording of each** remote {notary
electronic recordings relating to the electronic notary journal} **notarization**, are a secure and
authentic record of the remote notarizations that the remote notary performs; and
- 421 (ii) maintain, and protect from unauthorized access or use, a backup of the electronic {notary}
journal, and the electronic {**recordings relating to**} **recording of each remote notarization**
recorded in the {**electronic notary**} journal.
- 424 (b)

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(i) A remote notary may designate as a custodian of the remote notary's electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal and { ~~remote notary~~ } the electronic { ~~recording~~ } [described in Section 46-1-14] { ~~recordings~~ } of each remote notarization:

(A) subject to Subsection (3), the remote notary's employer that employs the remote notary to perform notarizations; or

(B) except as provided in Subsection (2)(b)(iii), an electronic repository that grants the remote notary sole access to the electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal and electronic recording and does not allow the person who operates the electronic repository or any other person to access the notary's electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal, information in the { ~~notary~~ } journal, or [the] an { ~~remote notary~~ } electronic { ~~recording~~ } { } ~~recordings~~ } of a remote notarization for any purpose.

(ii) A remote notary [that] who designates a custodian under Subsection (2)(b)(i) shall execute an agreement with the custodian that requires the custodian to comply with the safety and security requirements, record retention requirements, and record destruction requirements of this chapter with regard to the remote notary's electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal, the information in the remote notary's electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal, and the { ~~remote notary's~~ } electronic [recording] recordings.

(iii) An electronic repository described in Subsection (2)(b)(i)(B) may access [an] a remote notary's electronic { ~~notary~~ } journal, information [contained in an electronic journal, and the electronic recording] in the { ~~notary~~ } journal, and the electronic { ~~recordings~~ } recording of each remote notarization:

(A) for a purpose solely related to completing, in accordance with this chapter, the notarization for which the journal or information in the journal is accessed;

(B) for a purpose solely related to complying with the requirements to retain and store records under this chapter; or

(C) if required under a court order.

(3) The notary's employer may not require the notary to surrender the { ~~notary~~ } journal or the electronic recording upon termination of the notary's employment.

(4) The lieutenant governor or a designee of the lieutenant governor may inspect a notary's { ~~notary~~ } journal or a remote notary's electronic recordings relating to a notarial act:

(a) to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter or a related provision of law; or

(b) to verify the authenticity of a notarial act.

(5)

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(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b) or (7), an individual may, during the notary's normal business hours, inspect or request a copy of an entry { ~~in the notary's notary journal of~~ } for a specific notarial act in the notary's journal, if:

(i) the notary personally knows the individual or { ~~the individual proves~~ } verifies the individual's identity { ~~to the notary~~ } by satisfactory evidence of identity;

(ii) the individual specifies:

(A) the type of notarial act the individual desires to inspect;

(B) the document to which the notarial act relates;

(C) the month and year of the notarial act; and

(D) the name of the principal to which the notarial act relates;

(iii) the individual affixes the individual's signature in the { ~~notary~~ } journal, as a separate entry that contains:

(A) the individual's name and address;

(B) the method used to identify the individual;

(C) the notarial record the individual inspects or of which the individual requests a copy;

(D) the date of the inspection or request; and

(E) the reason for the inspection or request; and

(iv) the individual inspects , or the notary provides a copy of, only the { ~~notarial act~~ } entry requested by the individual.

(b) A notary may refuse to allow an inspection { ~~described in~~ } , or provide a copy, under Subsection (5)(a) , if the notary has a reasonable, articulable belief that the individual is seeking the inspection with criminal or other harmful intent.

(6)

(a) As used in this Subsection (6), "official request" means:

(i) a request made by law enforcement relating to a law enforcement investigation;

(ii) a subpoena issued under the authority of law or under court authority; or

(iii) a court order.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (7), a notary shall, in accordance with Subsection (6)(c), comply with an official request to:

(i) inspect a { ~~notary~~ } journal, an entry in a { ~~notary~~ } journal, or { ~~a~~ } an electronic recording { ~~relating to~~ } of a { ~~notary journal~~ } remote notarization; or

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- 486 (ii) provide a certified copy of a notarial actor entry in the notary's journal.
487 (c) Compliance with an official request is limited to:
488 (i) the scope of the investigation described in Subsection (6)(a)(i); or
489 (ii) the extent expressly stated in the subpoena or court order.
490 (7) If a portion of a remote notarization includes biometric information or an image of identification
used for the remote notarization, the notary may not allow inspection or release of that portion,
unless:
493 (a) the individual to whom the information or identification relates consents, in writing, to the
inspection or release;
495 (b) ordered by a court with jurisdiction; or
496 (c) requested by the lieutenant governor or a designee of the lieutenant governor.
497 (8) The following are not a record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and
Management Act:
499 (a) a {notary} journal; or
500 (b) an electronic recording of a remote notarization.
501 {(9)} {An electronic recording of a remote notarization is not part of a notary journal.}

516 Section 9. Section **46-1-16** is amended to read:

517 **46-1-16. Official signature -- Official seal -- Destruction of seal -- Unlawful use of seal --**
Criminal penalties.

- 505 (1) In completing a notarial act, a notary shall sign on the notarial certificate exactly and only the name
indicated on the notary's commission.
507 (2)
(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), a notary shall keep an official seal, and a remote notary
shall keep an electronic seal and electronic signature, that is the exclusive property of the notary.
510 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), a notary's official seal, electronic seal, or electronic
signature may not be used by any other person.
512 (c)
(i) Each official seal used for an in-person notarization shall be in purple ink.
513 (ii) Each official seal used for a remote notarization shall be rendered in black.
514 (d)

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- (i) A remote notary may allow a person that provides an electronic seal to the remote notary under Section 46-1-17 to act as guardian over the electronic seal.
- 516 (ii) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d)(iii), a guardian described in Subsection (2)(d)(i) shall store the seal in a secure manner that prevents any person from:
- 518 (A) accessing the seal, other than the guardian and the remote notary named on the seal; or
- 520 (B) using the seal to perform a notarization, other than the remote notary named on the seal.
- 522 (iii) A guardian that a notary designates under Subsection (2)(d)(i) may access and use the seal of the notary:
- 524 (A) for a purpose solely related to completing, in accordance with this chapter, the notarization, by the notary, for which the seal is accessed or used;
- 526 (B) for a purpose solely related to complying with the requirements to obtain, store, and protect the seal under this chapter; or
- 528 (C) if required under a court order.
- 529 (3)
- (a) A notary shall obtain a new official seal:
- 530 (i) when the notary receives a new commission; or
- 531 (ii) if the notary changes the notary's name of record at any time during the notary's commission.
- 533 (b) Subject to Subsection (3)(c), a notary shall affix the official seal near the notary's official signature on a notarial certificate and shall include a sharp, legible, and photographically reproducible rendering of the official seal that consists of:
- 536 (i) the notary public's name exactly as indicated on the notary's commission;
- 537 (ii) the words "notary public," "state of Utah," and "my commission expires on (commission expiration date)";
- 539 (iii) the notary's commission number, exactly as indicated on the notary's commission;
- 540 (iv) a facsimile of the great seal of the state; and
- 541 (v) a rectangular border no larger than one inch by two and one-half inches surrounding the required words and official seal.
- 543 (c) When performing a remote notarization, a remote notary shall attach the remote notary's electronic signature and electronic seal under Subsection (3)(b) to an electronic notarial certificate in a manner that makes evident any subsequent change or modification to:
- 547 (i) the notarial certificate; or

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- 548 (ii) any electronic record, that is a part of the notarization, to which the notarial certificate is attached.
- 550 (4) A notary may use an embossed seal impression that is not photographically reproducible in addition
to, but not in place of, the photographically reproducible official seal required in this section.
- 553 (5) A notary shall affix the official seal in a manner that does not obscure or render illegible any
information or signatures contained in the document or in the notarial certificate.
- 555 (6) A notary may not use an official seal independent of a notarial certificate.
- 556 (7) Except for a notarial certificate that is completed as a part of a remote notarization, a notarial
certificate on an annexation, subdivision, or other map or plat is considered complete without the
imprint of the notary's official seal if:
- 559 (a) the notary signs the notarial certificate in permanent ink; and
- 560 (b) the following appear below or immediately adjacent to the notary's signature:
- 561 (i) the notary's name and commission number appears exactly as indicated on the notary's commission;
- 563 (ii) the words "A notary public commissioned in Utah"; and
- 564 (iii) the expiration date of the notary's commission.
- 565 (8) A notarial certificate on an electronic message or document is considered complete without the
notary's official seal if the following information appears electronically within the message or
document:
- 568 (a) the notary's name and commission number appearing exactly as indicated on the notary's
commission; and
- 570 (b) the words "notary public," "state of Utah," and "my commission expires on _____ (date)".
- 572 (9)
- (a) When a notary resigns or the notary's commission expires or is revoked, the notary shall:
- 574 (i) destroy the notary's official seal and certificate; and
- 575 (ii) if the notary is a remote notary, destroy any coding, disk, certificate, card, software, or
password that enables the remote notary to affix the remote notary's electronic signature or
electronic seal to a notarial certificate.
- 578 (b) A former remote notary shall certify to the lieutenant governor in writing that the former remote
notary has complied with Subsection (9)(a)(ii) within 10 days after the day on which the notary
resigns or the notary's commission expires or is revoked.
- 595 (10)

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- (a) An actor commits unlawful interference with a notary if the person, without legal authority, knowingly, uses, forges, takes, accesses, conceals, damages, destroys, or alters:
- (i) a notary's signature or electronic signature;
 - (ii) a notarial certificate or electronic notarial certificate;
 - (iii) an official seal;
 - (iv) the equipment, hardware, software, computer code, or electronic storage medium used or intended for use in performing a notarial act;
 - (v) a journal; or
 - (vi) an electronic recording of a remote notarization.
- (b) A violation of Subsection (10)(a) is a class B misdemeanor.
- (c) If a notary discovers that unlawful interference with a notary has occurred in relation to the notary, or to any item described in Subsection (10)(a) over which the notary has custody or control, the notary shall immediately:
- (i) notify a law enforcement officer with jurisdiction of the violation; and
 - (ii) provide written notice of the discovery to the lieutenant governor.
- (d) If a notary discovers that any item described in Subsection (10)(a) over which the notary has custody or control is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the notary shall immediately provide written notice of the discovery to the lieutenant governor.
- (e) A notary shall:
- (i) provide the notice described in Subsection (10)(c)(ii) or (d) by:
- (A) email, using the address provided on the website for the Notary Department, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
 - (B) certified mail; or
 - (C) another delivery method that provides a receipt confirming delivery; and
- (ii) include in the notice:
- (A) the notary's name, address, and commission number;
 - (B) a description of the discovery and the relevant facts;
 - (C) if the matter involves a journal or an electronic recording of a remote notarization, the time period covered by the affected journal or electronic recordings; and
 - (D) if the discovery involves unlawful interference under Subsection (10)(a), the information necessary for the lieutenant governor to identify and obtain the related police report.

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581 [(10)

(a) A person who, without authorization, knowingly obtains, conceals, damages, or destroys the certificate, disk, coding, card, program, software, or hardware enabling a remote notary to affix an official electronic signature or electronic seal to an electronic record is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.]

585 [(b) A remote notary shall immediately notify the lieutenant governor if the notary becomes aware that the notary's electronic signature, electronic seal, electronic journal, or information from the journal has been lost, stolen, or used unlawfully.]

588 {(10)}

{(a) A person commits unlawful interference with a notary if the person, without legal authority, knowingly uses, forges, takes, accesses, conceals, damages, destroys, or alters: }

591 {(i) a notary's signature or electronic signature; }

592 {(ii) a notarial certificate or electronic certificate; }

593 {(iii) an official seal; }

594 {(iv) equipment, hardware, software, computer code, or electronic storage medium that is used or intended for use to perform a notarial act; }

596 {(v) a notary journal; or }

597 {(vi) an electronic recording relating to a notary journal. }

598 {(b) A violation of Subsection (10)(a) is a class B misdemeanor. }

599 {(11) A notary shall comply with Subsection (12) if the notary discovers that: }

600 {(a) a violation of Subsection (10) occurs in relation to the notary; }

601 {(b) a violation of Subsection (10) occurs in relation to an item described in Subsection (10) over which the notary has custody or control; or }

603 {(c) an item described in Subsection (10) over which the notary has custody or control is otherwise lost, damaged, or destroyed. }

605 {(12) If notary makes a discovery described in Subsection (11), the notary shall: }

606 {(a) for a discovery described in Subsection (11)(a) or (b), immediately inform a law enforcement officer with jurisdiction of the violation; and }

608 {(b) for a discovery described in Subsection (11)(a), (b), or (c): }

609 {(i) immediately provide written notice of the discovery to the lieutenant governor: }

610

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~~{(A) by email, at the email provided on the website of the Notary Department within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; or }~~

612 ~~{(B) by certified mail or another means that provides a receipt proving delivery; and }~~

613 ~~{(ii) include in the written notice: }~~

614 ~~{(A) a description of the discovery and the facts relating to the discovery; }~~

615 ~~{(B) the notary's name, address, and commission number; }~~

616 ~~{(C) if the matter relates to a notary journal or an electronic recording relating to a notary journal, the time period to which the notary journal or electronic recordings relate; and }~~

619 ~~{(D) if the discovery relates to a violation of Subsection (10), information enabling the lieutenant governor to identify and obtain a copy of the police report relating to the incident. }~~

636 Section 10. **Repealer.**

This Bill Repeals:

637 This bill repeals:

638 Section **46-1-1, Short title.**

639 Section 11. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

2-2-26 5:19 PM