

Calvin R. Musselman proposes the following substitute bill:

**Notary Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman**

House Sponsor: Jake Sawyer

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions of the Notaries Public Reform Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ modifies requirements for providing satisfactory evidence of identity;
- ▶ for a notary who, on or after May 6, 2026, receives a notary commission, or receives a new notary commission:
  - implements a requirement for the notary to keep a journal; and
  - modifies requirements for the content of a journal;
- ▶ modifies requirements relating to the retention of a journal or an electronic recording of a remote notarization;
- ▶ provides that a journal or an electronic recording of a remote notarization are not records under the Government Records Access and Management Act;
- ▶ describes the circumstances under which a journal may be inspected;
- ▶ makes it a crime to, without legal authority, use, forge, or take certain other actions in relation to a notarization, a journal, an official seal, or other items relating to notarization;
- ▶ describes the action that a notary is required to take upon discovery of:
  - a crime described in this bill; or
  - the loss, damage, or destruction of a journal or related items;
- ▶ exempts attorneys, law firms, and title agencies from certain requirements relating to a journal; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

29 None

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 None

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **46-1-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

35 **46-1-3.6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

36 **46-1-3.7**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

37 **46-1-6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

38 **46-1-13**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

39 **46-1-14**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 391

40 **46-1-15**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

41 **46-1-16**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 192

42 ENACTS:

43 **46-1-14.1**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

44 REPEALS:

45 **46-1-1**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 1988, Chapter 222



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

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

49 **46-1-2 . Definitions.**

50 As used in this chapter:

51 (1) "Acknowledgment" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a signer, whose  
52 identity is personally known to the notary or proven on the basis of satisfactory  
53 evidence, has admitted, in the presence of the notary, to voluntarily signing a document  
54 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  
59 Certificate of Authority of Notary Public that the lieutenant governor issues to a  
60 notary.

61 (4) "Copy certification" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a photocopy is  
62 an accurate copy of a document that is neither a public record nor publicly recorded.

63 (5) "Electronic journal" means an electronic journal of notarial acts that a remote notary is  
 64 required to keep under Subsection 46-1-13(1)(c) or (2)(b).

65 [~~5~~] (6) "Electronic notarization" means:

66 (a) a remote notarization; or

67 (b) a notarization:

68 (i) in an electronic format;

69 (ii) of a document that may be recorded electronically under Subsection 17-71-402(2);

70 and

71 (iii) that conforms with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7.

72 [~~6~~] (7) "Electronic recording of a remote notarization" means [the] an audio and video  
 73 recording[, described in Subsection 46-1-3.6(3),] of the performance of a remote  
 74 notarization.

75 [~~7~~] (8) "Electronic seal" means an electronic version of the seal described in Section  
 76 46-1-16, that conforms with rules made under Subsection 46-1-3.7(1)(d), that a notary  
 77 may attach to a notarial certificate to complete an electronic notarization.

78 [~~8~~] (9) "Electronic signature" means the same as that term is defined in Section 46-4-102.

79 [~~9~~] (10) "In the presence of the notary" means that an individual:

80 (a) is physically present with the notary in close enough proximity to see and hear the  
 81 notary; or

82 (b) communicates with a remote notary by means of an electronic device or process that:

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

85 (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  
 88 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.

91 [~~10~~] (12) "Jurat" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies:

92 (a) the identity of a signer who:

93 (i) is personally known to the notary; or

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

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

96 and

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

98 ~~[(11)]~~ (13) "Notarial act"~~[-or "notarization"]~~ means~~[-an act that a notary is authorized to~~  
99 ~~perform under Section 46-1-6.]~~ :

100 (a) a jurat;

101 (b) an acknowledgment;

102 (c) a signature witnessing;

103 (d) a copy certification; or

104 (e) an oath or affirmation.

105 ~~[(12)]~~ (14) "Notarial certificate" means the affidavit described in Section 46-1-6.5 that is:

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

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

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

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

111 ~~[(13)]~~ (17)(a) "Notary" means an individual commissioned to perform notarial acts under  
112 this chapter.

113 (b) "Notary" includes a remote notary.

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

115 ~~[(14)]~~ (19) "Oath" or "affirmation" means a notarial act in which a notary certifies that a  
116 person made a vow or affirmation in the presence of the notary on penalty of perjury.

117 ~~[(15)]~~ (20) "Official misconduct" means a notary's performance of any act prohibited or  
118 failure to perform any act mandated by this chapter or by any other law in connection  
119 with a notarial act.

120 ~~[(16)]~~ (21)(a) "Official seal" means the seal described in Section 46-1-16 that a notary  
121 may attach to a notarial certificate to complete a notarization.

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

123 ~~[(17)]~~ (22) "Personally ~~[known]~~ knows" means familiarity with an individual resulting from  
124 interactions with that individual over a period of time sufficient to eliminate every  
125 reasonable doubt that the individual has the identity claimed.

126 ~~[(18)]~~ (23) "Remote notarization" means a notarial act performed by a remote notary in  
127 accordance with this chapter for an individual who is not in the physical presence of the  
128 remote notary at the time the remote notary performs the notarial act.

129 ~~[(19)]~~ (24) "Remote notary" means a notary that holds an active remote notary certification  
130 under Section 46-1-3.5.

- 131 ~~[(20)(a) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" means:]~~
- 132 ~~[(i) for both an in-person and remote notarization, identification of an individual~~
- 133 ~~based on:]~~
- 134 ~~[(A) subject to Subsection (20)(b), valid personal identification with the~~
- 135 ~~individual's photograph, signature, and physical description that the United~~
- 136 ~~States government, any state within the United States, or a foreign government~~
- 137 ~~issues;]~~
- 138 ~~[(B) subject to Subsection (20)(b), a valid passport that any nation issues; or]~~
- 139 ~~[(C) the oath or affirmation of a credible person who is personally known to the~~
- 140 ~~notary and who personally knows the individual; and]~~
- 141 ~~[(ii) for a remote notarization only, a third party's affirmation of an individual's~~
- 142 ~~identity in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7 by means of:]~~
- 143 ~~[(A) dynamic knowledge-based authentication, which may include requiring the~~
- 144 ~~individual to answer questions about the individual's personal information~~
- 145 ~~obtained from public or proprietary data sources; or]~~
- 146 ~~[(B) analysis of the individual's biometric data, which may include facial~~
- 147 ~~recognition, voiceprint analysis, or fingerprint analysis.]~~
- 148 ~~[(b) "Satisfactory evidence of identity," for a remote notarization, requires the~~
- 149 ~~identification described in Subsection (20)(a)(i)(A) or passport described in~~
- 150 ~~Subsection (20)(a)(i)(B) to be verified through public or proprietary data sources in~~
- 151 ~~accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7.]~~
- 152 ~~[(e) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" does not include:]~~
- 153 ~~[(i) a driving privilege card under Subsection 53-3-207(12); or]~~
- 154 ~~[(ii) another document that is not considered valid for identification.]~~
- 155 (25)(a) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" means:
- 156 (i) for both in-person and remote notarization, identification of an individual based
- 157 on:
- 158 (A) unexpired personal identification that:
- 159 (I) includes the individual's photograph, signature, and physical description; and
- 160 (II) is issued by the United States government, the government of a state,
- 161 district, territory, or possession of the United States, a federally-recognized
- 162 tribal government, or a foreign government;
- 163 (B) an unexpired passport issued by any nation;
- 164 (C) the oath or affirmation of a credible individual whom the notary personally

- 165 knows and who personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act; or  
 166 (D) the oath or affirmation of a credible individual who:  
 167 (I) personally knows the individual seeking the notarial act;  
 168 (II) the notary does not personally know; and  
 169 (III) provides the notary with the credible individual's identification described  
 170 in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(A) or (B); and  
 171 (ii) for a remote notarization only, in addition to a method of identification described  
 172 in Subsection (25)(a)(i), secondary authentication of identity of:  
 173 (A) except as provided in Subsection (25)(a)(ii)(B), the individual seeking the  
 174 notarial act; or  
 175 (B) the credible individual described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D), if the individual  
 176 seeking the notarial act is identified under the method of identification  
 177 described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(D).  
 178 (b) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" does not include:  
 179 (i) a driving privilege card under Subsection 53-3-207(12); or  
 180 (ii) a document other than a document described in Subsection (25)(a)(i)(A) or (B).  
 181 (26) "Secondary authentication of identity" means a third party's verification of an  
 182 individual's identity, in accordance with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7, by means of:  
 183 (a) dynamic knowledge-based authentication, which may include requiring the  
 184 individual to answer questions about the individual's personal information obtained  
 185 from public or proprietary data sources; or  
 186 (b) analysis of the individual's biometric data, which may include facial recognition,  
 187 voiceprint analysis, or fingerprint analysis.  
 188 ~~[(21)]~~ (27) "Signature witnessing" means a notarial act in which an individual:  
 189 (a) appears in the presence of the notary and presents a document;  
 190 (b) provides the notary satisfactory evidence of the individual's identity, or is personally  
 191 known to the notary; and  
 192 (c) signs the document in the presence of the notary.  
 193 (28) "Title agency" means a person that provides title insurance, as defined in Section  
 194 31A-1-301.  
 195 Section 2. Section **46-1-3.6** is amended to read:  
 196 **46-1-3.6 . Remote notarization procedures.**  
 197 (1) A remote notary who receives a remote notary certification under Section 46-1-3.5 may  
 198 perform a remote notarization if the remote notary is physically located in this state.

- 199 (2) A remote notary that performs a remote notarization for an individual that is not  
 200 personally known to the remote notary shall, at the time the remote notary performs the  
 201 remote notarization, establish satisfactory evidence of identity for the individual by:
- 202 (a) communicating with the individual using an electronic device or process that:
- 203 (i) allows the individual and remote notary to communicate with one another  
 204 simultaneously by sight and sound; and
- 205 (ii) complies with rules made under Section 46-1-3.7; and
- 206 (b) requiring the individual to transmit to the remote notary an image of a form of  
 207 identification described in Subsection ~~[46-1-2(20)(a)(i)(A) or passport described in~~  
 208 ~~Subsection 46-1-2(20)(a)(i)(B)]~~ 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A) or (B) that is of sufficient quality  
 209 for the remote notary to establish satisfactory evidence of identity.
- 210 (3)(a) A remote notary shall create an ~~[audio and video recording of the performance]~~  
 211 electronic recording of each remote notarization and store the recording in  
 212 accordance with Sections ~~[46-1-14]~~ 46-1-41.1 and 46-1-15.
- 213 (b) A remote notary shall take reasonable steps, consistent with industry standards, to  
 214 ensure that any non-public data transmitted or stored in connection with a remote  
 215 notarization performed by the remote notary is secure from unauthorized interception  
 216 or disclosure.
- 217 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a remote notarization lawfully performed  
 218 under this chapter satisfies any provision of state law that requires an individual to  
 219 personally appear before, or be in the presence of, a notary at the time the notary  
 220 performs a notarial act.
- 221 Section 3. Section **46-1-3.7** is amended to read:
- 222 **46-1-3.7 . Rulemaking authority for electronic notarization.**
- 223 (1) The director of elections in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor may make rules in  
 224 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, regarding  
 225 standards for and types of:
- 226 (a) electronic software and hardware that:
- 227 (i) a notary may use to perform an electronic notarization; and
- 228 (ii) a remote notary may use to keep an electronic journal under Section 46-1-13;
- 229 (b) public and proprietary data sources that a remote notary may use to establish  
 230 satisfactory evidence of identity under Subsection ~~[46-1-2(20)(b)]~~ 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(A)  
 231 or (B);
- 232 (c) dynamic knowledge-based authentication or biometric data analysis that a remote

233 notary may use to establish [~~satisfactory evidence of identity under Subsection~~  
234 ~~46-1-2(20)(a)(ii)] secondary authentication of identity; and~~

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

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

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

240 **46-1-6 . Powers and limitations.**

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

242 (a) a jurat;

243 (b) an acknowledgment;

244 (c) a signature witnessing;

245 (d) a copy certification; and

246 (e) an oath or affirmation.

247 (2) A notary may not:

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

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

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

253 **46-1-13 . Journal required -- Exceptions.**

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

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

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

260 ~~[(2)]~~ (c) [A] a remote notary shall keep a secure electronic journal of each remote  
261 notarization the notary performs[-] ; and

262 (d) Subsections (3) and (4) apply in relation to an electronic journal described in  
263 Subsection (1)(c).

264 (2) A notary who receives a commission, or a new commission, on or after May 6, 2026:

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

- 267           **(b) shall, in accordance with Section 46-1-14, keep a secure electronic journal of each**  
268           **remote notarization that the notary performs; and**
- 269           **(c) is subject to the provisions of Subsections (3) and (4) in relation to the notary's**  
270           **journal.**
- 271           **(3)(a) A notary shall retain a journal for 10 years after the day on which the notary**  
272           **records the last notarial act in the journal, regardless of whether the notary ceases to**  
273           **be a notary.**
- 274           **(b) Following the 10-year period described in Subsection (3)(a), the notary shall destroy**  
275           **the journal by shredding or another means of destruction that renders all information**  
276           **in the journal illegible.**
- 277           **(c) A remote notary shall maintain, or ensure that a person that the notary designates as a**  
278           **custodian under Subsection 46-1-15(2)(b)(i) maintains, an electronic journal, and**  
279           **each electronic recording of a remote notarization, for 10 years after the day on**  
280           **which the notary records the last notarial act in the journal, regardless of whether the**  
281           **notary ceases to be a notary.**
- 282           **(d) Following the 10-year period described in Subsection (3)(c), the notary shall destroy,**  
283           **or ensure that the custodian designated under Subsection 46-1-15(2)(b)(i) erases and**  
284           **overwrites, or otherwise destroys, the electronic journal, and, for each remote**  
285           **notarization recorded in the journal, the electronic recording of the remote**  
286           **notarization, including all backups, by a means that renders all of the data**  
287           **irretrievable.**
- 288           **(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter:**
- 289           **(a) a notary who is employed by an attorney or a law firm is not required to keep a**  
290           **journal of notarial acts performed by the notary in the course and scope of the**  
291           **notary's employment by the attorney or law firm;**
- 292           **(b) a journal or other record of a notarial act performed by the notary in the course and**  
293           **scope of the notary's employment by the attorney or law firm is the property of the**  
294           **attorney or law firm and is not subject to disclosure or inspection by the lieutenant**  
295           **governor;**
- 296           **(c) the provisions of this chapter do not require an attorney or law firm to take any**  
297           **action that would constitute a violation of the attorney-client privilege;**
- 298           **(d) a notary who is employed by a title agency is not required to keep a journal of**  
299           **notarial acts performed by the notary in the course and scope of the notary's**  
300           **employment by the title agency; and**

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

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

305 **46-1-14 . Sunsetting provisions for entries in journal -- Required information.**

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

307 [(4)] (2) A notary may, for each notarial act the notary performs, and a remote notary shall,  
 308 for each notarial act the remote notary performs remotely, record the following  
 309 information in the journal described in Section 46-1-13 at the time of notarization:

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

311 (b) the type of notarial act;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

328 [(2)] (3) A notary may record in the journal a description of the circumstances under which  
 329 the notary refused to perform or complete a notarial act.

330 [(3)] (4)[(a)] A remote notary shall include[-with the journal] , for each electronic  
 331 notarization recorded in the electronic journal, a copy of the electronic recording of  
 332 the remote notarization.

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

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

339 Section 7. Section **46-1-14.1** is enacted to read:

340 **46-1-14.1 . Entries in journal -- Required information.**

341 (1) This section applies to a notary who receives a commission, or a new commission, on or  
 342 after May 6, 2026.

343 (2) A journal shall:

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

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

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

350 (ii) the type of notarial act performed;

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

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

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

357 (A) the identification type;

358 (B) the issuing agency of the identification;

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

360 (D) the date the identification was issued; and

361 (E) the date the identification expires;

362 (v) if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary  
 363 performs the notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection  
 364 46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(C):

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

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

- 369           (C) the printed name and address of the credible individual;  
370           (vi) if the satisfactory evidence of identity of the individual for whom the notary  
371           performs the notarial act is a credible individual described in Subsection  
372           46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(D):  
373           (A) an indication that the notary administered the oath or affirmation to the  
374           credible individual, including the individual's signature, to verify:  
375           (I) the identity of the individual seeking the notarial act; and  
376           (II) that the credible individual personally knows the individual seeking the  
377           notarial act;  
378           (B) the printed name and address of the credible individual; and  
379           (C) a description of the identification, described in Subsection  
380           46-1-2(25)(a)(i)(D)(III), of the credible individual that states:  
381           (I) the identification type;  
382           (II) the issuing agency of the identification;  
383           (III) the last four digits of the identification number;  
384           (IV) the date the identification was issued; and  
385           (V) the date the identification expires;  
386           (vii) for a remote notarization only, in addition to the information required under  
387           Subsections (2)(b)(iv) through (vi), a record of the secondary authentication of  
388           identity;  
389           (viii) if the notary administered an oath or affirmation, an indication that the notary  
390           administered the oath or affirmation;  
391           (ix) the signature, printed name, and address of the individual for whom the notary  
392           performs the notarial act; and  
393           (x) the fee charged, if any, by the notary.  
394           (3) A remote notary shall, for each electronic notarization performed by the remote notary:  
395           (a) record in the remote notary's electronic journal, the information described in  
396           Subsection (2)(b); and  
397           (b) include with the notary's electronic journal a copy of the electronic recording of the  
398           remote notarization.  
399           (4)(a) A notary may make a single entry in a journal to document more than one notarial  
400           act if the notarial acts are performed for the same individual at the same time on:  
401           (i) one record; or  
402           (ii) similar records.

- 403       (b) When performing a notarial act for an individual, a notary is not required to have the  
 404       individual sign the journal if:
- 405       (i)(A) the notary has performed a notarial act for the individual within 180 days  
 406       before the day on which the notary performs the notarial act;  
 407       (B) the notary has personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;  
 408       (C) the individual is an employer or a coworker of the notary;  
 409       (D) the notarial act relates to a transaction performed in the ordinary course of the  
 410       individual's business; and  
 411       (E) the notary enters "known personally" in place of the evidence otherwise  
 412       required for the detailed record described in Subsection ; or
- 413       (ii) for a remote notarization, the notary uses the electronic journal to:
- 414       (A) capture and record the individual's signature; and  
 415       (B) associate the signature with the remote notarization.
- 416       (5) If a notary or remote notary refuses to perform or complete a notarial act, the notary  
 417       shall record in the journal:
- 418       (a) the information described in Subsection (2)(b) that the notary was able to obtain; and  
 419       (b) a description of the reason the notary refused to perform or complete the notarial act.
- 420       Section 8. Section **46-1-15** is amended to read:
- 421       **46-1-15 . Inspection of journal -- Safekeeping and custody of journal -- Nature of**  
 422       **record.**
- 423       (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), [~~if a notary maintains a journal, the~~] a notary  
 424       shall:
- 425       (a) keep the notary's journal in the notary's exclusive custody; and  
 426       (b) ensure that the journal is not used by any other person for any purpose.
- 427       (2)(a) A remote notary shall:
- 428       ~~[(i) ensure that the electronic journal and electronic recording described in Section~~  
 429       ~~46-1-14 that is maintained by the remote notary is a secure and authentic record of~~  
 430       ~~the remote notarizations that the notary performs;]~~
- 431       ~~[(ii) maintain a backup electronic journal and electronic recording; and]~~  
 432       ~~[(iii) protect the backup electronic journal and electronic recording described in~~  
 433       ~~Subsection (2)(a)(ii) from unauthorized access or use.]~~
- 434       (i) ensure that the electronic journal, and the electronic recording of each remote  
 435       notarization, are a secure and authentic record of the remote notarizations that the  
 436       remote notary performs; and

437 (ii) maintain, and protect from unauthorized access or use, a backup of the electronic  
438 journal, and the electronic recording of each remote notarization recorded in the  
439 journal.

440 (b)(i) A remote notary may designate as a custodian of the remote notary's electronic  
441 journal and the electronic recording [described in Section 46-1-14] of each remote  
442 notarization:

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

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

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

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

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

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

465 (C) if required under a court order.

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

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

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

- 471 law; or
- 472 (b) to verify the authenticity of a notarial act.
- 473 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b) or (7), an individual may, during the  
474 notary's normal business hours, inspect or request a copy of an entry for a specific  
475 notarial act in the notary's journal, if:
- 476 (i) the notary personally knows the individual or verifies the individual's identity by  
477 satisfactory evidence of identity;
- 478 (ii) the individual specifies:
- 479 (A) the type of notarial act the individual desires to inspect;  
480 (B) the document to which the notarial act relates;  
481 (C) the month and year of the notarial act; and  
482 (D) the name of the principal to which the notarial act relates;
- 483 (iii) the individual affixes the individual's signature in the journal, as a separate entry  
484 that contains:
- 485 (A) the individual's name and address;  
486 (B) the method used to identify the individual;  
487 (C) the notarial record the individual inspects or of which the individual requests a  
488 copy;
- 489 (D) the date of the inspection or request; and  
490 (E) the reason for the inspection or request; and
- 491 (iv) the individual inspects, or the notary provides a copy of, only the entry requested  
492 by the individual.
- 493 (b) A notary may refuse to allow an inspection, or provide a copy, under Subsection  
494 (5)(a), if the notary has a reasonable, articulable belief that the individual is seeking  
495 the inspection with criminal or other harmful intent.
- 496 (6)(a) As used in this Subsection (6), "official request" means:
- 497 (i) a request made by law enforcement relating to a law enforcement investigation;  
498 (ii) a subpoena issued under the authority of law or under court authority; or  
499 (iii) a court order.
- 500 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (7), a notary shall, in accordance with Subsection  
501 (6)(c), comply with an official request to:
- 502 (i) inspect a journal, an entry in a journal, or an electronic recording of a remote  
503 notarization; or
- 504 (ii) provide a certified copy of a notarial act or entry in the notary's journal.

- 505 (c) Compliance with an official request is limited to:  
506 (i) the scope of the investigation described in Subsection (6)(a)(i); or  
507 (ii) the extent expressly stated in the subpoena or court order.
- 508 (7) If a portion of a remote notarization includes biometric information or an image of  
509 identification used for the remote notarization, the notary may not allow inspection or  
510 release of that portion, unless:  
511 (a) the individual to whom the information or identification relates consents, in writing,  
512 to the inspection or release;  
513 (b) ordered by a court with jurisdiction; or  
514 (c) requested by the lieutenant governor or a designee of the lieutenant governor.
- 515 (8) The following are not a record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access  
516 and Management Act:  
517 (a) a journal; or  
518 (b) an electronic recording of a remote notarization.

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

520 **46-1-16 . Official signature -- Official seal -- Destruction of seal -- Unlawful use of**  
521 **seal -- Criminal penalties.**

- 522 (1) In completing a notarial act, a notary shall sign on the notarial certificate exactly and  
523 only the name indicated on the notary's commission.
- 524 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), a notary shall keep an official seal, and a  
525 remote notary shall keep an electronic seal and electronic signature, that is the  
526 exclusive property of the notary.
- 527 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), a notary's official seal, electronic seal, or  
528 electronic signature may not be used by any other person.
- 529 (c)(i) Each official seal used for an in-person notarization shall be in purple ink.  
530 (ii) Each official seal used for a remote notarization shall be rendered in black.
- 531 (d)(i) A remote notary may allow a person that provides an electronic seal to the  
532 remote notary under Section 46-1-17 to act as guardian over the electronic seal.  
533 (ii) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d)(iii), a guardian described in Subsection  
534 (2)(d)(i) shall store the seal in a secure manner that prevents any person from:  
535 (A) accessing the seal, other than the guardian and the remote notary named on  
536 the seal; or  
537 (B) using the seal to perform a notarization, other than the remote notary named  
538 on the seal.

- 539 (iii) A guardian that a notary designates under Subsection (2)(d)(i) may access and  
540 use the seal of the notary:
- 541 (A) for a purpose solely related to completing, in accordance with this chapter, the  
542 notarization, by the notary, for which the seal is accessed or used;
- 543 (B) for a purpose solely related to complying with the requirements to obtain,  
544 store, and protect the seal under this chapter; or
- 545 (C) if required under a court order.
- 546 (3)(a) A notary shall obtain a new official seal:
- 547 (i) when the notary receives a new commission; or
- 548 (ii) if the notary changes the notary's name of record at any time during the notary's  
549 commission.
- 550 (b) Subject to Subsection (3)(c), a notary shall affix the official seal near the notary's  
551 official signature on a notarial certificate and shall include a sharp, legible, and  
552 photographically reproducible rendering of the official seal that consists of:
- 553 (i) the notary public's name exactly as indicated on the notary's commission;
- 554 (ii) the words "notary public," "state of Utah," and "my commission expires on  
555 (commission expiration date)";
- 556 (iii) the notary's commission number, exactly as indicated on the notary's commission;
- 557 (iv) a facsimile of the great seal of the state; and
- 558 (v) a rectangular border no larger than one inch by two and one-half inches  
559 surrounding the required words and official seal.
- 560 (c) When performing a remote notarization, a remote notary shall attach the remote  
561 notary's electronic signature and electronic seal under Subsection (3)(b) to an  
562 electronic notarial certificate in a manner that makes evident any subsequent change  
563 or modification to:
- 564 (i) the notarial certificate; or
- 565 (ii) any electronic record, that is a part of the notarization, to which the notarial  
566 certificate is attached.
- 567 (4) A notary may use an embossed seal impression that is not photographically reproducible  
568 in addition to, but not in place of, the photographically reproducible official seal  
569 required in this section.
- 570 (5) A notary shall affix the official seal in a manner that does not obscure or render illegible  
571 any information or signatures contained in the document or in the notarial certificate.
- 572 (6) A notary may not use an official seal independent of a notarial certificate.

- 573 (7) Except for a notarial certificate that is completed as a part of a remote notarization, a  
574 notarial certificate on an annexation, subdivision, or other map or plat is considered  
575 complete without the imprint of the notary's official seal if:
- 576 (a) the notary signs the notarial certificate in permanent ink; and
  - 577 (b) the following appear below or immediately adjacent to the notary's signature:
    - 578 (i) the notary's name and commission number appears exactly as indicated on the  
579 notary's commission;
    - 580 (ii) the words "A notary public commissioned in Utah"; and
    - 581 (iii) the expiration date of the notary's commission.
- 582 (8) A notarial certificate on an electronic message or document is considered complete  
583 without the notary's official seal if the following information appears electronically  
584 within the message or document:
- 585 (a) the notary's name and commission number appearing exactly as indicated on the  
586 notary's commission; and
  - 587 (b) the words "notary public," "state of Utah," and "my commission expires on \_\_\_\_\_  
588 (date)".
- 589 (9)(a) When a notary resigns or the notary's commission expires or is revoked, the  
590 notary shall:
- 591 (i) destroy the notary's official seal and certificate; and
  - 592 (ii) if the notary is a remote notary, destroy any coding, disk, certificate, card,  
593 software, or password that enables the remote notary to affix the remote notary's  
594 electronic signature or electronic seal to a notarial certificate.
- 595 (b) A former remote notary shall certify to the lieutenant governor in writing that the  
596 former remote notary has complied with Subsection (9)(a)(ii) within 10 days after the  
597 day on which the notary resigns or the notary's commission expires or is revoked.
- 598 (10)(a) As used in this Subsection (10), "authority" means:
- 599 (i) legal authority; or
  - 600 (ii) authority granted by a notary for a person to provide maintenance, repair, or  
601 technical support in relation to:
    - 602 (A) the notary's journal; or
    - 603 (B) equipment, hardware, software, computer code, or an electronic storage  
604 medium, used or intended for use in performing a notarial act.
- 605 (b) An actor commits unlawful interference with a notary if the person, without  
606 authority, knowingly, uses, forges, takes, accesses, conceals, damages, destroys, or

- 607           alters:
- 608           (i) a notary's signature or electronic signature;
- 609           (ii) a notarial certificate or electronic notarial certificate;
- 610           (iii) an official seal;
- 611           (iv) the equipment, hardware, software, computer code, or electronic storage medium
- 612                 used or intended for use in performing a notarial act;
- 613           (v) a journal; or
- 614           (vi) an electronic recording of a remote notarization.
- 615        (c) A violation of Subsection (10)(b) is a class B misdemeanor.
- 616        (d) If a notary discovers that unlawful interference with a notary has occurred in relation
- 617           to the notary, or to any item described in Subsection (10)(b) over which the notary
- 618           has custody or control, the notary shall immediately:
- 619           (i) notify a law enforcement officer with jurisdiction of the violation; and
- 620           (ii) provide written notice of the discovery to the lieutenant governor.
- 621        (e) If a notary discovers that any item described in Subsection (10)(b) over which the
- 622           notary has custody or control is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the notary shall
- 623           immediately provide written notice of the discovery to the lieutenant governor.
- 624        (f) A notary shall:
- 625           (i) provide the notice described in Subsection (10)(d)(ii) or (e) by:
- 626                 (A) email, using the address provided on the website for the Notary Department,
- 627                 within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
- 628                 (B) certified mail; or
- 629                 (C) another delivery method that provides a receipt confirming delivery; and
- 630           (ii) include in the notice:
- 631                 (A) the notary's name, address, and commission number;
- 632                 (B) a description of the discovery and the relevant facts;
- 633                 (C) if the matter involves a journal or an electronic recording of a remote
- 634                     notarization, the time period covered by the affected journal or electronic
- 635                     recordings; and
- 636                 (D) if the discovery involves unlawful interference under Subsection (10)(b), the
- 637                     information necessary for the lieutenant governor to identify and obtain the
- 638                     related police report.
- 639        ~~[(10)(a) A person who, without authorization, knowingly obtains, conceals, damages, or~~
- 640           ~~destroys the certificate, disk, coding, card, program, software, or hardware enabling a~~

641 ~~remote notary to affix an official electronic signature or electronic seal to an~~  
642 ~~electronic record is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.]~~

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

646 Section 10. **Repealer.**

647 This bill repeals:

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

649 Section 11. **Effective Date.**

650 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.