

**STATEMENT OF THE OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 130**

Before the House Civil Justice Committee
Representative Brett Hillyer, Chair

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 130.

The Ohio State Bar Association (“OSBA”) supports Senate Bill 130 and the commitment of the legislature to modernize notarization practices and procedures that greatly help with the business climate of Ohio. The enactment of Senate Bill 263 in the 132nd General Assembly made significant improvements to the laws governing notarization in Ohio. It authorized electronic and remote online notaries in the state, and consolidated oversight to the office of the Ohio Secretary of State. These changes have had a significant impact on our business climate, but like any major reform, a few years later it is clear that we need to make further updates to ensure our notary law is clear and efficient for notaries and the office of the Ohio Secretary of State. We value our partnership with the Ohio Secretary of State’s office and their commitment to making improvements in the law.

Senate Bill 130 makes another round of improvements to notary law. We are also supportive of an amendment accepted in the Senate that allows for remote online notaries to account for the cost of maintaining a provider that meets the standards for remote online notaries in the state. This will stabilize or increase the amount of remote online notarizations, as the service was becoming cost-prohibitive to offer when the fee cannot cover the expense of providing the service.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for the legislature’s commitment to ensuring that Ohio is a leader for notarizations in the country.