



SENATOR STEVE WILSON

**General Government & Budget Committee
Senator Steve Wilson
March 15th, 2022
Senate Bill 300**

Good afternoon Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig and members of the General Government Budget Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 300, which amends the law regarding notary regulations.

As we have seen during the pandemic, current regulations regarding notary public didn't give them the tools they need for the modern era and for emergency situations. When in person contact was to be avoided, we put our notaries in an impossible situation choosing between public safety and doing their duties as notary.

This legislation fixes that by making several changes to allow notaries to utilize modern technology. Under the proposed legislation, notaries will be permitted to e-notarize, and the legislation makes several changes to the notary law to make this possible. Some of these changes include, Redefining "acknowledgment" to mean an individual's declaration before a notary that the individual has signed a record for the purpose stated in the record, requiring notaries to file an electronic form instead of paper forms when seeking to replace lost or stolen commissions or to amend an existing commission, and

expanding the list of government officials that are required to accept electronically notarized documents.

Not only will this legislation make our public notaries lives easier, but it will continue the work of the Ohio Senate to innovate and modernize the way we do public business in the State of Ohio. I urge support of this important legislation.