



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

Session: State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 465-4919

Interim: 1500 W. Benson Blvd., Anch, AK 99503 Phone: 269-0130

House Bill 124 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to the recording of documents; relating to notaries and notarization; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 124 establishes a secure process for remote online notarization to facilitate commercial transactions in Alaska. The bill is based on two Uniform Law Commission Acts: Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act (URPERA), which clarifies the authority of recording officials to receive, record, and retrieve electronic land records and information; and Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts (RULONA), a comprehensive notarial law that outlines procedures for both tangible notarial acts and those performed electronically.

HB 124 incorporates portions of URPERA and RULONA to complement existing Alaska notarial law and update it for the digital age. HB 124 establishes the equivalence of electronic notarized documents with those produced on a tangible medium and allows notaries to perform notarial acts for remotely located individuals. Notaries are responsible for supervising the signing of documents and attesting to both the authenticity of a document as well as the identity of the parties involved. It is critical that updates to notarial law maintain the integrity and security of the notarial process. To this end, the bill includes provisions that outline procedure for performing a secure remote electronic notarization, including verification of the identity of the remotely located individual; give the lieutenant governor the authority to adopt regulations to ensure a secure process for remote online notarization; and require that the notary public maintain a journal chronicling all notarial acts that the notary public performs.

The use of electronic records in commercial, governmental, and personal transactions has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. HB 124 allows Alaskans to keep up with these trends and perform notarizations with greater ease. By adopting language from URPERA and RULONA, the bill ensures Alaska notarial law is consistent with notarial law in a growing number of states that have adopted Uniform Law Commission standards for remote online notarization. Setting up a system to allow for remote online notarization is particularly useful in Alaska given the state's immense size and the fact that many of our communities are not connected by road. At present, commercial transactions within the state often necessitate delays as parties involved ship documents back and forth for the purpose of notarization. By creating a process for remote online notarization, improving the efficiency and convenience of transactions in the state, HB 124 will open new opportunities for commerce and help build Alaska with a strong economy.