AN ACT

RELATING TO NOTARIAL ACTS; ENACTING THE REVISED UNIFORM LAW ON NOTARIAL ACTS; REQUIRING RULEMAKING BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE; REPEALING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978 PERTAINING TO NOTARIAL ACTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts:

A. "acknowledgment" means a declaration by an individual before a notarial officer that the individual has signed a record for the purpose stated in the record and, if the record is signed in a representative capacity, that the individual signed the record with proper authority and signed
it as the act of the individual or entity identified in the record;

B. "electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities;

C. "electronic signature" means an electronic symbol, sound or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by an individual with the intent to sign the record;

D. "in a representative capacity" means acting as:

(1) an authorized officer, agent, partner, trustee or other representative for a person other than an individual;

(2) a public officer, personal representative, guardian or other representative, in the capacity stated in a record;

(3) an agent or attorney-in-fact for a principal; or

(4) an authorized representative of another in any other capacity;

E. "notarial act" means an act, whether performed with respect to a tangible or electronic record, that a notarial officer may perform under the law of this state. The term includes taking an acknowledgment, administering an oath or affirmation, taking a verification on oath or affirmation,
witnessing or attesting a signature, certifying or attesting a
copy and noting a protest of a negotiable instrument;

F. "notarial officer" means a notary public or
other individual authorized to perform a notarial act;

G. "notary public" means an individual commissioned
to perform a notarial act by the secretary of state;

H. "official stamp" means a physical image affixed
to or embossed on a tangible record or an electronic image
attached to or logically associated with an electronic record;

I. "person" means an individual, corporation,
business trust, statutory trust, estate, trust, partnership,
limited liability company, association, joint venture, public
corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency or
instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity;

J. "record" means information that is inscribed on
a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other
medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;

K. "sign" means, with present intent to
authenticate or adopt a record, to:

    (1) execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

    (2) attach to or logically associate with the
record an electronic symbol, sound or process;

L. "signature" means a tangible symbol or an
electronic signature that evidences the signing of a record;

M. "stamping device" means:
(1) a physical device capable of affixing to or embossing on a tangible record an official stamp; or

(2) an electronic device or process capable of attaching to or logically associating with an electronic record an official stamp; and

N. "verification on oath or affirmation" means a declaration, made by an individual on oath or affirmation before a notarial officer, that a statement in a record is true.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] AUTHORITY TO PERFORM NOTARIAL ACT.--

A. A notary public or notarial officer shall perform all notarial acts pursuant to the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts or by law of this state other than the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

B. A notarial officer shall not perform a notarial act with respect to a record to which the officer or the officer's spouse is a party or in which either of them has a direct beneficial interest. A notarial act performed in violation of this subsection is voidable.

C. A notarial officer may certify that a tangible copy of an electronic record is an accurate copy of the electronic record.

SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN NOTARIAL ACTS.--
A. A notarial officer who takes an acknowledgment of a record shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the officer and making the acknowledgment has the identity claimed and that the signature on the record is the signature of the individual.

B. A notarial officer who takes a verification of a statement on oath or affirmation shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the officer and making the verification has the identity claimed and that the signature on the statement verified is the signature of the individual.

C. A notarial officer who witnesses or attests to a signature shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the officer and signing the record has the identity claimed.

D. A notarial officer who certifies or attests a copy of a record or an item that was copied shall determine that the copy is a full, true and accurate transcription or reproduction of the record or item.

E. A notarial officer who makes or notes a protest of a negotiable instrument shall determine the matters set forth in Section 3-505(b) of the federal Uniform Commercial

.217843.1

- 5 -
SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] PERSONAL APPEARANCE REQUIRED.--
If a notarial act relates to a statement made in or a signature executed on a record, the individual making the statement or executing the signature shall appear personally before the notarial officer.

SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL.--

A. A notarial officer has personal knowledge of the identity of an individual appearing before the officer if the individual is personally known to the officer through dealings sufficient to provide reasonable certainty that individual has the identity claimed.

B. A notarial officer has satisfactory evidence of the identity of an individual appearing before the officer if the officer can identify the individual:

(1) by means of:

(a) a passport, driver's license or government-issued non-driver identification card, which is current or expired not more than three years before performance of the notarial act; or

(b) another form of government identification issued to an individual, which is current or expired not more than three years before performance of the notarial act, contains the signature or a photograph of the individual and is satisfactory to the officer; or
of a credible witness personally appearing before the officer and known to the officer or whom the officer can identify on the basis of a passport, driver's license or government-issued nondriver identification card, which is current or expired not more than three years before performance of the notarial act.

C. A notarial officer may require an individual to provide additional information or identification credentials necessary to assure the officer of the identity of the individual.

SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] AUTHORITY TO REFUSE TO PERFORM NOTARIAL ACTS.--

A. A notarial officer may refuse to perform a notarial act if the officer is not satisfied that:

(1) the individual executing the record is competent or has the capacity to execute the record; or

(2) the individual's signature is knowingly and voluntarily made.

B. A notarial officer may refuse to perform a notarial act unless refusal is prohibited by law other than the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

C. A notarial officer shall not refuse to perform a notarial act if the refusal would violate other state or federal laws.

SECTION 8. [NEW MATERIAL] SIGNATURE IF INDIVIDUAL IS
UNABLE TO SIGN.--If an individual is physically unable to sign a record, the individual may direct an individual other than the notarial officer to sign the individual's name on the record. The notarial officer shall insert "Signature affixed by (name of other individual) at the direction of (name of individual)" or words of similar import.

SECTION 9. [NEW MATERIAL] JURISDICTION OVER NOTARIAL ACTS RELATING TO THIS STATE.--

A. A notarial act in relation with this state is subject to the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and other laws of this state.

B. The secretary of state shall advise the notaries public or notarial officers of other states when performing notarial acts in relation with this state.

C. For the purposes of this section, "in relation with this state" means a notarial act concerning or affecting individuals, property or other matters located within the state or arising from individuals, property or other matters located within the state that are subject to a notarial act.

SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARIAL ACTS IN THIS STATE.--

A. A notarial act may be performed in this state by:

   (1) a notary public of this state;

   (2) a judge of a court of this state;

   (3) a court clerk of this state while
performing a notarial act within the scope of a court clerk's duties;

(4) an individual licensed to practice law in this state; or

(5) any other individual authorized to perform the specific act by the law of this state.

B. The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act in this state are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

C. The signature and title of a notarial officer described in Paragraph (1), (2), (3) or (4) of Subsection A of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.

D. The ability of a notarial officer described in Paragraph (2), (3) or (4) of Subsection A of this section to perform notarial acts is conditioned on the notarial officer maintaining an active license to practice law pursuant to the laws of this state.

SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARIAL ACT IN ANOTHER STATE.--

A. A notarial act performed in another state has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notarial officer of this state, if the act performed in that state is performed by:
(1) a notary public of that state;
(2) a judge of that state;
(3) a court clerk of that state while
performing a notarial act within the scope of the court clerk's
duties; or
(4) any other individual authorized by the law
of that state to perform the notarial act.

B. The signature and title of an individual
performing a notarial act in another state are prima facie
evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual
holds the designated title.

C. The signature and title of a notarial officer
described in Paragraph (1), (2) or (3) of Subsection A of this
section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to
perform the notarial act.

D. The authority of a notarial officer described in
Paragraph (2), (3) or (4) of Subsection A of this section to
perform notarial acts is conditioned on the notarial officer
maintaining an active license to practice law.

SECTION 12. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARIAL ACT UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE.--

A. A notarial act performed under the authority and
in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe has
the same effect as if performed by a notarial officer of this
state, if the act performed in the jurisdiction of the tribe is

.217843.1
performed by:

(1) a notary public of the tribe;
(2) a judge of a court of the tribe;
(3) a court clerk of the tribe while performing a notarial act within the scope of a court clerk's duties; or
(4) any other individual authorized by the law of the tribe to perform the notarial act.

B. The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act under the authority of and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

C. The signature and title of a notarial officer described in Paragraph (1), (2) or (3) of Subsection A of this section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.

D. The authority of a notarial officer described in Paragraph (2), (3) or (4) of Subsection A of this section to perform notarial acts is conditioned on the notarial officer maintaining an active license to practice law pursuant to tribal law.

SECTION 13. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARIAL ACT UNDER FEDERAL AUTHORITY.--

A. A notarial act performed under federal law has

.217843.1

- 11 -
the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by
a notarial officer of this state, if the act performed under
federal law is performed by:

(1) a judge;

(2) a court clerk while performing notarial
acts required in holding the title of court clerk of a court;

(3) an individual in military service or
performing duties under the authority of military service who
is authorized to perform notarial acts under federal law;

(4) an individual designated a notarizing
officer by the United States department of state for performing
notarial acts overseas; or

(5) any other individual authorized by federal
law to perform the notarial act.

B. The signature and title of an individual acting
under federal authority and performing a notarial act are prima
facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the
individual holds the designated title.

C. The signature and title of an officer described
in Paragraph (1), (2), (3) or (4) of Subsection A of this
section conclusively establish the authority of the officer to
perform the notarial act.

D. The authority of a notarial officer described in
Paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of Subsection A of this
section to perform notarial acts is conditioned on the notarial
officer maintaining an active license to practice law pursuant to the laws of this state.

SECTION 14. [NEW MATERIAL] FOREIGN NOTARIAL ACTS.--

A. As used in this section, "foreign state" means a government other than the United States, a state or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

B. If a notarial act is performed under authority and in the jurisdiction of a foreign state or constituent unit of the foreign state or is performed under the authority of a multinational or international governmental organization, the act has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notarial officer of this state.

C. If the title of office and indication of authority to perform notarial acts in a foreign state appears in a digest of foreign law or in a list customarily used as a source for that information, the authority of an officer with that title to perform notarial acts is conclusively established.

D. The signature and official stamp of an individual holding an office described in Subsection C of this section are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and the individual holds the designated title.

E. An apostille in the form prescribed by the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 and issued by a foreign state party to the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 conclusively
establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the officer holds the indicated office.

F. A consular authentication issued by an individual designated by the United States department of state as a notarizing officer for performing notarial acts overseas and attached to the record with respect to which the notarial act is performed conclusively establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the officer holds the indicated office.

SECTION 15. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARIAL ACT PERFORMED FOR REMOTELY LOCATED INDIVIDUALS.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "communication technology" means an electronic device or process that:

   (a) allows a notary public and a remotely located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound; and
   (b) when necessary and consistent with other applicable law, facilitates communication with a remotely located individual who has a vision, hearing or speech impairment;

(2) "foreign state" means a jurisdiction other than the United States, a state or a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(3) "identity proofing" means a process or
service by which a third person provides a notary public with a
means to verify the identity of a remotely located individual
by a review of personal information from public or private data
sources;

(4) "outside the United States" means a
location outside the geographic boundaries of the United
States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands and any
territory, insular possession or other location subject to the
jurisdiction of the United States; and

(5) "remotely located individual" means an
individual who is not in the physical presence of the notary
public who performs a notarial act under Subsection C of this
section.

B. A remotely located individual may comply with
Section 5 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts by using
communication technology to appear before a notary public.

C. A notary public or notarial officer located in
this state may perform a notarial act using communication
technology for a remotely located individual if:

(1) the notary public:
    (a) has personal knowledge of the
    identity of the individual pursuant to Subsection A of Section
    6 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts;
    (b) has satisfactory evidence of the
    identity of the remotely located individual by oath or
affirmation from a credible witness appearing before the notary public pursuant to Subsection B of Section 6 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts or this section; or

(c) has obtained satisfactory evidence of the identity of the remotely located individual by using at least two different types of identity proofing;

(2) the notary public is reasonably able to confirm that a record before the notary public is the same record in which the remotely located individual made a statement or on which the individual executed a signature;

(3) the notary public, or a person acting on behalf of the notary public, creates an audiovisual recording of the performance of the notarial act; and

(4) for a remotely located individual located outside the United States:

(a) the record: 1) is to be filed with or relates to a matter before a public official or court, governmental entity or other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or 2) involves property located in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States or involves a transaction substantially connected with the United States; and

(b) the act of making the statement or signing the record is not prohibited by the foreign state in which the remotely located individual is located.

D. If a notarial act is performed pursuant to this
section, the certificate of notarial act required by Section 16 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and the short-form certificate provided in Section 17 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts shall indicate that the notarial act was performed using communication technology.

E. A short-form certificate provided pursuant to Section 17 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts for a notarial act subject to this section is sufficient if it:

(1) complies with rules adopted under Paragraph (1) of Subsection H of this section; or

(2) is in the form provided in Section 17 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and contains a statement substantially as follows: "This notarial act involved the use of communication technology."

F. A notary public, a guardian, conservator or agent of a notary public or a personal representative of a deceased notary public shall retain the audiovisual recording created pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subsection C of this section or cause the recording to be retained by a repository designated by or on behalf of the person required to retain the recording. Unless a different period is required by rule adopted pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subsection H of this section, the recording must be retained for a period of at least ten years after the recording is made.

G. Before a notary public performs the notary
public's initial notarial act under this section, the notary public shall notify the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts with respect to remotely located individuals and identify the technologies the notary public intends to use. If the secretary of state has established standards pursuant to Subsection H of this section and Section 28 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts for approval of communication technology or identity proofing, the communication technology and identity proofing shall conform to the standards.

H. In addition to adopting rules pursuant to Section 28 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, the secretary of state may adopt rules under this section regarding performance of a notarial act. The rules may:

(1) prescribe the means of performing a notarial act involving a remotely located individual using communication technology;

(2) establish standards for communication technology and identity proofing;

(3) establish requirements or procedures to approve providers of communication technology and the process of identity proofing; and

(4) establish standards and a period for the retention of an audiovisual recording created pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subsection C of this section.
I. Before adopting, amending or repealing a rule governing performance of a notarial act with respect to a remotely located individual, the secretary of state shall consider:

(1) the most recent standards regarding the performance of a notarial act with respect to a remotely located individual promulgated by national standard-setting organizations and the recommendations of the national association of secretaries of state;

(2) standards, practices and customs of other jurisdictions that have laws substantially similar to this section; and

(3) the views of governmental officials and entities and other interested persons.

J. By allowing its communication technology or identity proofing to facilitate a notarial act for a remotely located individual or by providing storage of the audiovisual recording created pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subsection C of this section, the provider of the communication technology, identity proofing or storage appoints the secretary of state as the provider's agent for service of process in a civil action in this state related to the notarial act.

SECTION 16. [NEW MATERIAL] CERTIFICATE OF NOTARIAL ACT.--

A. A notarial act shall be evidenced by a certificate. The certificate shall:
(1) be executed contemporaneously with the performance of the notarial act;

(2) be signed and dated by the notarial officer and, if the notarial officer is a notary public, be signed in the same manner as on file with the secretary of state;

(3) identify the jurisdiction in which the notarial act is performed;

(4) contain the title of office of the notarial officer;

(5) if the notarial officer is a notary public not licensed to practice law, indicate the date of expiration of the notarial officer's commission;

(6) identify the judicial district served if the notarial officer is a judge or court clerk; and

(7) include the docket number or other identification number of the matter requiring the notarial act if the notarial officer is a court clerk.

B. If a notarial act regarding a tangible record is performed by a notary public, an official stamp shall be affixed to or embossed on the certificate. If a notarial act is performed regarding a tangible record by a notarial officer other than a notary public and the certificate contains the information specified in Paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) of Subsection A of this section, an official stamp shall be affixed to or embossed on the certificate.
affixed to or embossed on the certificate. If a notarial act
regarding an electronic record is performed by a notarial
officer and the certificate contains the information specified
in Paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) of Subsection A
of this section, an official stamp may be attached to or
logically associated with the certificate.

C. A certificate of a notarial act is sufficient if
it meets the requirements of Subsections A and B of this
section and:

   (1) is in a short-form set forth in Section 17
of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts;

   (2) is in a form otherwise permitted by the
law of this state;

   (3) is in a form permitted by the law
applicable in the jurisdiction in which the notarial act was
performed; or

   (4) sets forth the actions of the notarial
officer, and the actions are sufficient to meet the
requirements of the notarial act as provided in Sections 4, 5
and 6 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts or law of
this state other than the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

D. By executing a certificate of a notarial act, a
notarial officer certifies that the officer has complied with
the requirements and made the determinations specified in
Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial
Acts.
E. A notarial officer shall not affix the officer's signature to, or logically associate it with, a certificate until the notarial act has been performed.

F. If a notarial act is performed regarding a tangible record, a certificate shall be part of, or securely attached to, the record. If a notarial act is performed regarding an electronic record, the certificate shall be affixed to, or logically associated with, the electronic record. If the secretary of state has established standards pursuant to Section 28 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts for attaching, affixing or logically associating the certificate, the process shall conform to the standards.

SECTION 17. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT-FORM CERTIFICATES.--The following short-form certificates of notarial acts are sufficient for the purposes indicated, if completed with the information required by Subsections A and B of Section 16 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts:

A. for an acknowledgment in an individual capacity:

State of__________________________________________

[County] of_______________________________________

This record was acknowledged before me on ________

Date

by ________________________

Name(s) of individual(s)
Signature of notarial officer
Stamp
[__________________________]
Title of office

[New Mexico state bar identification number, judicial district, court docket number or date of commission expiration: ________];

B. for an acknowledgment in a representative capacity:

State of ____________________________
[County] of ____________________________
This record was acknowledged before me on ________ by

________________________
Date

________________________
Name(s) of individual(s) as (type of authority, such as officer or trustee) of (name of party on behalf of whom record was executed).

________________________
Signature of notarial officer
Stamp
[__________________________]
Title of office

[New Mexico state bar identification number, judicial district, court docket number or date of commission expiration: .217843.1}
C. for a verification on oath or affirmation:

State of ________________________________
[County] of ________________________________
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on ________

                      Date

by ____________________________.

          Name(s) of individual(s)

          making statement

                              ____________________________

Signature of notarial officer

Stamp

                              [___________________________]

Title of office

                       [New Mexico state bar identification number, judicial district, court docket number or date of commission expiration: ____________________________];

D. for witnessing or attesting a signature:

State of ________________________________

[County] of ________________________________
Signed (or attested) before me on ________ by

                      Date

                      ____________________________.

          Name(s) of individual(s)

                              ____________________________
SECTION 18. [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICIAL STAMP.--The official stamp of a notary public shall:

A. include the notary public's name, jurisdiction, New Mexico state bar identification number if the notary public
is licensed to practice law in this state, judicial district
served if the notarial officer is a judge, docket number or
other identification of the matter requiring the notarial act
if the notarial officer is a court clerk or date of commission
expiration and other information required by the secretary of
state;

B. be capable of being copied together with the
record to which it is affixed or attached or with which it is
logically associated; and

C. be filed with the secretary of state.

SECTION 19.  [NEW MATERIAL] STAMPING DEVICE.--

A. A notary public is responsible for the security
of the notary public's stamping device and may not allow
another individual to use the device to perform a notarial act.
On resignation from, or the revocation or expiration of, the
notary public's commission, or on the expiration of the date
set forth in the stamping device, if any, the notary public
shall disable the stamping device by destroying, defacing,
damaging, erasing or securing it against use in a manner that
renders it unusable. On the death or adjudication of
incompetency of a notary public, the notary public's personal
representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in
possession of the stamping device shall render it unusable by
destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing or securing it against
use in a manner that renders it unusable.
B. If a notary public's stamping device is lost or stolen, the notary public or the notary public's personal representative or guardian shall promptly notify the commissioning officer or agency on discovering that the device is lost or stolen.

SECTION 20. [NEW MATERIAL] JOURNAL.--

A. A notary public other than an individual licensed to practice law in this state shall maintain a journal in which the notary public chronicles all notarial acts that the notary public performs. The notary public shall retain the journal for ten years after the performance of the last notarial act chronicled in the journal.

B. A journal may be created on a tangible medium or in an electronic format. A notary public or notarial officer performing notarial acts pursuant to Subsection E of this section shall maintain only one journal at a time to chronicle all notarial acts, whether those notarial acts are performed regarding tangible or electronic records. If the journal is maintained on a tangible medium, it must be a permanent, bound register with numbered pages. If the journal is maintained in an electronic format, it must be in a permanent, tamper-evident electronic format complying with the rules of the secretary of state.

C. An entry in a journal must be made contemporaneously with performance of the notarial act and
contain the following information:

(1) the date and time of the notarial act;
(2) a description of the record, if any, and type of notarial act;
(3) the full name and address of each individual for whom the notarial act is performed;
(4) if identity of the individual is based on personal knowledge, a statement to that effect;
(5) if identity of the individual is based on satisfactory evidence, a brief description of the method of identification and the identification credential presented, if any, including the date of issuance and expiration of any identification credential; and
(6) the fee, if any, charged by the notary public.

D. If a notary public's journal is lost or stolen, the notary public shall promptly notify the secretary of state on discovering that the journal is lost or stolen.

E. Pursuant to the requirements provided in Subsections B and C of this section, a notarial officer licensed to practice law in this state shall maintain a journal when performing notarial acts for members of the public unrelated to an established attorney-client relationship or performing notarial acts not requiring the practice of law.

F. On resignation from, or the revocation or
suspension of, a notary public's commission, the notary public shall retain the notary public's journal in accordance with Subsection A of this section and inform the secretary of state of where the journal is located.

G. Instead of retaining a journal as provided in Subsections A and F of this section, a current or former notary public may transmit the journal to the secretary of state, the state records officer or a repository approved by the secretary of state.

H. On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a current or former notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in possession of the journal shall transmit the journal to the secretary of state, the state records officer or a repository approved by the secretary of state.

SECTION 21. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTIFICATION REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF NOTARIAL ACT ON ELECTRONIC RECORD--SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY--ACCEPTANCE OF TANGIBLE COPY OF ELECTRONIC RECORD.--

A. A notary public or notarial officer licensed to practice law shall select one or more tamper-evident technologies to perform notarial acts with respect to electronic records. A person may not require a notary public or notarial officer licensed to practice law to perform a notarial act with respect to an electronic record with a technology that the notary public has not selected.
B. Before performing the notary public's or notarial officer's initial notarial act with respect to an electronic record, a notary public or notarial officer licensed to practice law shall notify the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts with respect to electronic records and identify the technology the notary public intends to use. If the secretary of state has established standards for approval of technology pursuant to Section 28 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, the technology must conform to the standards. If the technology conforms to the standards, the secretary of state shall approve the use of the technology.

C. A recorder may accept for recording a tangible copy of an electronic record containing a notarial certificate as satisfying any requirement that a record accepted for recording be an original, if the notarial officer licensed to practice law executing the notarial certificate certifies that the tangible copy is an accurate copy of the electronic record.

SECTION 22. [NEW MATERIAL] COMMISSION AS NOTARY PUBLIC QUALIFICATIONS--NO IMMUNITY OR BENEFIT.--

A. An individual who is not licensed to practice law in this state, a judge or a court clerk, and who is qualified pursuant to Subsection B of this section, may apply to the secretary of state for a commission as a notary public. The applicant shall comply with and provide the information
required by rules established by the secretary of state and pay any application fee.

B. To qualify for the commission as a notary public, an applicant shall:

(1) be at least eighteen years of age;

(2) be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States;

(3) be a resident of or have a place of employment or practice in this state;

(4) be able to read and write English;

(5) not be disqualified to receive a commission under Section 24 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts;

(6) have passed the examination required pursuant to Subsection A of Section 23 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts; and

(7) not otherwise be qualified as a notarial officer by holding a license to practice law in this state, by serving as a judge in a court of this state or a court clerk in a court of this state performing a notarial act within the scope of the court clerk's duties.

C. Before issuance of a commission as a notary public, an applicant for the commission shall execute an oath of office and submit it to the secretary of state.

D. Not more than thirty days after issuance of a
commission as a notary public, the notary public or applicant
for a commission shall submit to the secretary of state an
assurance in the form of a surety bond or its functional
equivalent in the amount of ten thousand dollars ($10,000).
The assurance must be issued by a surety or other entity
licensed or authorized to do business in this state. The
assurance must cover acts performed during the term of the
notary public's commission and must be in the form prescribed
by the secretary of state. If a notary public violates law
with respect to notaries public in this state, the surety or
issuing entity is liable under the assurance. The surety or
issuing entity shall give thirty days notice to the secretary
of state before canceling the assurance. The surety or issuing
entity shall notify the secretary of state not later than
thirty days after making a payment to a claimant under the
assurance. A notary public may perform notarial acts in this
state only during the period that a valid assurance is on file
with the secretary of state.

E. On compliance with this section, the secretary
of state shall issue a commission as a notary public to an
applicant for a term of four years.

F. A commission to act as a notary public
authorizes the notary public to perform notarial acts. The
commission does not provide the notary public any immunity or
benefit conferred by law of this state on public officials or
SECTION 23. [NEW MATERIAL] EXAMINATION OF NOTARY PUBLIC AND NOTARIAL OFFICERS--CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.--

A. An applicant for a commission as a notary public who does not hold a commission in this state is required to pass an examination administered by the secretary of state or an entity approved by the secretary of state. The examination will be based on the course of study described in Subsection B of this section.

B. The secretary of state or an entity approved by the secretary of state shall offer regularly a course of study to applicants who do not hold commissions as notaries public in this state. The course must cover the laws, rules, procedures and ethics relevant to notarial acts.

C. A notarial officer authorized to practice law in this state may obtain one unit of continuing legal education credit, pursuant to rules established by the board of bar commissioners of the state of New Mexico, for participating in continuing legal education related to performing the notarial acts.

SECTION 24. [NEW MATERIAL] GROUNDS TO DENY, REFUSE TO RENEW, REVOKE, SUSPEND OR CONDITION COMMISSION OF NOTARY PUBLIC.--

A. The secretary of state may deny, refuse to
renew, revoke, suspend or impose a condition on a commission as notary public for any act or omission that demonstrates that the individual lacks the honesty, integrity, competence or reliability to act as a notary public, including:

(1) failure to comply with the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts;

(2) a fraudulent, dishonest or deceitful misstatement or omission in the application for a commission as a notary public submitted to the secretary of state;

(3) a conviction of the applicant or notary public of any felony or a crime involving fraud, dishonesty or deceit;

(4) a finding against, or admission of liability by, the applicant or notary public in any legal proceeding or disciplinary action based on the applicant's or notary public's fraud, dishonesty or deceit;

(5) failure by the notary public to discharge any duty required of a notary public, whether by the provisions of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, rules of the secretary of state or any federal or state law;

(6) use of false or misleading advertising or representation by the notary public representing that the notary has a duty, right or privilege that the notary does not have;

(7) violation by the notary public of a rule
of the secretary of state regarding a notary public;

(8) denial, refusal to renew, revocation, suspension or conditioning of a notary public commission in another state; or

(9) failure of the notary public to maintain an assurance as provided in Subsection D of Section 22 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

B. If the secretary of state denies, refuses to renew, revokes, suspends or imposes conditions on a commission as a notary public, the applicant or notary public is entitled to timely notice and hearing in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. The secretary of state is subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act for the purposes of providing notice and providing a hearing pursuant to this section.

C. The authority of the secretary of state to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, revoke or impose conditions on a commission as a notary public does not prevent a person from seeking and obtaining other criminal or civil remedies provided by law.

SECTION 25. [NEW MATERIAL] DATABASE OF NOTARIES PUBLIC.-- The secretary of state shall maintain an electronic database of notaries public providing the following:

A. information and a means through which a person may verify the authority of a notary public to perform notarial
acts; and

B. indication of whether a notary public has notified the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts on electronic records.

SECTION 26. [NEW MATERIAL] PROHIBITED ACTS.--

A. A commission as a notary public not licensed to practice law in this state does not authorize an individual to:

(1) assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice or otherwise practice law;

(2) act as an immigration consultant or an expert on immigration matters;

(3) represent a person in a judicial or administrative proceeding relating to immigration to the United States, United States citizenship or related matters; or

(4) receive compensation for performing any of the activities listed in this subsection.

B. A notary public shall not engage in false or deceptive advertising.

C. A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, shall not use the term "notario" or "notario publico".

D. A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, shall not advertise or represent that the notary public may assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice or otherwise practice law. If a
notary public who is not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state in any manner advertises or represents that the notary public offers notarial services, whether orally or in a record, including broadcast media, print media and the internet, the notary public shall include the following statement or an alternate statement authorized or required by the secretary of state, in the advertisement or representation, prominently and in each language used in the advertisement or representation: "I am not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. I am not allowed to draft legal records, give advice on legal matters, including immigration, or charge a fee for those activities.". If the form of advertisement or representation is not broadcast media, print media or the internet and does not permit inclusion of the statement required by this subsection because of size, the statement shall be displayed prominently or provided at the place of performance of the notarial act before the notarial act is performed.

E. Except as otherwise allowed by law, a notary public shall not withhold access to or possession of an original record provided by a person that seeks performance of a notarial act by the notary public.

SECTION 27. [NEW MATERIAL] VALIDITY OF NOTARIAL ACTS.-- Except as otherwise provided in Subsection B of Section 3 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, the failure of a
notarial officer to perform a duty or meet a requirement
specified in the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts does not
invalidate a notarial act performed by the notarial officer.
The validity of a notarial act under the Revised Uniform Law on
Notarial Acts does not prevent an aggrieved person from seeking
to invalidate the record or transaction that is the subject of
the notarial act or from seeking other remedies based on law of
this state other than the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts
or law of the United States. This section does not validate a
purported notarial act performed by an individual who does not
have the authority to perform notarial acts.

SECTION 28. [NEW MATERIAL] RULES.--

A. The secretary of state may adopt rules to
implement the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts. Rules
adopted regarding the performance of notarial acts with respect
to electronic records may not require, or accord greater legal
status or effect to, the implementation or application of a
specific technology or technical specification. The rules may:

(1) prescribe the manner of performing
notarial acts regarding tangible and electronic records;

(2) include provisions to ensure that any
change to or tampering with a record bearing a certificate of a
notarial act is self-evident;

(3) include provisions to ensure integrity in
the creation, transmittal, storage or authentication of

.217843.1

- 38 -
electronic records or signatures;

(4) prescribe the process of granting, renewing, conditioning, denying, suspending or revoking a notary public commission and assuring the trustworthiness of an individual holding a commission as notary public;

(5) include provisions to prevent fraud or mistake in the performance of notarial acts;

(6) establish the process for approving and accepting surety bonds and other forms of assurance pursuant to Subsection D of Section 22 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts;

(7) provide for the administration of the examination pursuant to Subsection A of Section 23 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and the course of study pursuant to Subsection B of Section 23 of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts; and

(8) provide for the administration of continuing legal education for attorneys authorized to practice law in this state in collaboration with the board of bar commissioners of the state of New Mexico and pursuant to rules adopted by the board of bar commissioners of the state of New Mexico.

B. In adopting, amending or repealing rules about notarial acts with respect to electronic records, the secretary of state shall consider, so far as is consistent with the
Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts:

(1) the most recent standards regarding electronic records promulgated by national bodies, such as the national association of secretaries of state;

(2) standards, practices and customs of other jurisdictions that substantially enact the revised uniform law on notarial acts; and

(3) the views of governmental officials and entities and other interested persons.

SECTION 29. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION IN EFFECT.--

A. A commission as a notary public in effect on the effective date of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts continues until its date of expiration.

B. A notarial officer authorized to practice law in this state is authorized to practice notarial acts with no expiration of this authority but shall maintain an active license to practice law.

C. A notary public not authorized to practice law in this state who applies to renew a commission as a notary public on or after the effective date of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts is subject to and shall comply with the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

D. A notary public or notarial officer, in performing notarial acts after the effective date of the
Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, shall comply with the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

SECTION 30. [NEW MATERIAL] FEES.--

A. A notary public or notarial officer may charge the maximum fee specified in this section, charge less than the maximum fee or waive the fee.

B. In accordance with the Human Rights Act, a notary public or notarial officer shall not discriminate by conditioning the fee for a notarial act on the attributes of the principal.

C. An employer shall not establish fees for notarial services that are in excess of those specified in this section nor on the attributes of the principal as delineated.

D. The maximum fees that may be charged by a notary public or notarial officer licensed to practice law for notarial acts are:

(1) for acknowledgments, five dollars ($5.00) per acknowledgment;

(2) for oaths or affirmations without a signature, five dollars ($5.00) per person;

(3) for jurats, five dollars ($5.00) per jurat; and

(4) for copy certifications, fifty cents ($0.50) per page with a minimum total charge of five dollars ($5.00).
E. Pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act, a notary public or notarial officer licensed to practice law may charge a travel fee not to exceed thirty cents ($0.30) per mile when traveling to perform a notarial act if:

(1) the notary public and the person requesting the notarial act agree upon the travel fee in advance of the travel; and

(2) the notary public explains to the person requesting the notarial act that the travel fee is separate from the notarial fees and not mandated by law.

SECTION 31. [NEW MATERIAL] INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS ACT COMPLIANCE.--

A. Members of the public may request documents related to a notarial act transaction pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act.

B. A request made pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall name the notarial act transaction and documents requested related to the notarial act with particularity, naming the document subject to the notarial act in the request.

C. No request for documents relating to a notarial act that does not name the document subject to the notarial act or that seeks production of numerous documents related to a transaction shall be accommodated.

SECTION 32. [NEW MATERIAL] SAVING CLAUSE.--The Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts does not affect the validity or
effect of a notarial act performed before the effective date of
the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

SECTION 33. [NEW MATERIAL] UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND
CONSTRUCTION.--In applying and construing the Revised Uniform
Law on Notarial Acts, consideration shall be given to the need
to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject
matter among states that enact it.

SECTION 34. [NEW MATERIAL] RELATION TO FEDERAL ELECTRONIC
SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT.--The Revised
Uniform Law on Notarial Acts modifies, limits and supersedes
the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National
Commerce Act, but does not modify, limit or supersede Section
101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize
electronic delivery of any of the notices described in Section
103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b).

SECTION 35. REPEAL.--Sections 14-12A-1 through 14-12A-26
and 14-14-1 through 14-14-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
Chapter 286, Sections 1 through 26 and Laws 1993, Chapter 281,
Sections 1 through 11) are repealed.

SECTION 36. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
provisions of this act is January 1, 2022.

- 43 -