



April 11, 2022

The Honorable Jeanette K. White, Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Vermont State House  
115 State St  
Montpelier, VT 05633

**RE:** Written Testimony in Support of H 512

Dear Chair White and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,

Notarize, Inc. welcomes the opportunity to submit written testimony on H 512. We appreciate the leadership of Vermont on the issue of remote online notarization (RON). Vermont's existing RON law, H 526, signed on May 22, 2018, took the first step in bringing RON to the state. H 512 will help finish the process and open the door for Vermont notaries to perform RON. The following is our written testimony in support of H 512, and we encourage its timely passage.

**ABOUT NOTARIZE:**

Notarize is the leader in remote online notarization. We use modern technology to connect consumers and organizations to notary services 24/7. From buying or selling a home to adopting a child, Notarize is bringing trust online for life's most important moments.

Since our founding in 2015, we have been an active partner and trusted resource to governments at all levels. We have worked with close to 40 states to implement remote online notarization laws that prioritize consumer safety and maintain the integrity of the notarial act.

**SUPPORT FOR H 512:**

We write to support H 512 to bring remote online notarization to notaries commissioned in Vermont. This legislation will expand on Vermont's existing RON law, H 526 (2018), and deliver the same benefits that the notaries of over 30 states have been able to experience to those in Vermont.

RON is based on a multi-layered approach with security and fraud prevention at its core. Understanding the need for strong consumer and notary protections, H 512 authorizes:

- A notary public performing RON to use two-way audio/video communication, allowing for a fully remote experience.
- A multi-step identity verification process for verifying signers, requiring at least two different forms of identity proofing.
- The recording of the audio/video of each signing session and retention for up to ten years, a crucial fraud mitigation tool.
- Use of electronic documents and tamper-evident technologies, providing both consumers and the notary with safeguards that exceed what is available in today's paper process.

H 512 will provide a modern approach to notarization for Vermont notaries that will not only give them the tools needed to compete in today's digital economy but to conveniently provide their services across Vermont.

## **WHAT RON BRINGS TO VERMONT:**

H 512 provides notaries registered in Vermont with an additional method to provide their services. RON will provide notaries and residents in Vermont with many benefits, including:

- Vermont's notaries will have more control over their schedules. With access to a RON technology vendor like Notarize, the ability to have access to a platform 24/7 will afford more flexibility and control over their schedules.
- Opportunities for a notary to expand their services outside of just the areas they live in. Typically, a notary would be discouraged from commuting far distances to complete notarizations; with RON they wouldn't have to leave their office to complete a notarization for residents living across Vermont.
- Access for non-English speaking users. RON technology vendors like Notarize provide access to Spanish language functions and notaries, making RON an accessible option for non-English speaking users. Not only will this help address the diverse needs of Vermont, but it will also help multilingual notaries provide dynamic services to the consumers that need them. Notarize is working on integrations that will allow us to offer additional languages in the future.
- Increased access to notarial services for residents that live in rural or remote areas. RON gives residents access to services from a computer, tablet, and even a smartphone, meaning those who lack high-speed internet can still connect to a notary with a connection on their cell phone.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Thank you, Chair White, and the members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations for helping to advance RON in Vermont. We support H 512 in its entirety and look forward to being a trusted partner with the state of Vermont.

Should you have any questions regarding our written testimony, please contact me at [Kimberly.Gaedeke@notarize.com](mailto:Kimberly.Gaedeke@notarize.com). In the meantime, thank you again for the opportunity to provide our input and we appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,



Kim Gaedeke  
AVP, Head Government Affairs & Community Engagement  
Notarize, Inc.