



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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<b>Bill Number:</b>	S. 0486	Introduced on February 6, 2019
<b>Author:</b>	Talley	
<b>Subject:</b>	SC Remote Online Notarization Act	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate Family and Veterans Services	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Griffith and Gardner	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	March 7, 2019	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the Commission on Indigent Defense, the Judicial Department, or the Secretary of State's Office because the bill requires the organizations to perform activities conducted in the normal course of agency business, and they will manage any additional expenses within their existing appropriations. The expenditure impact on the Commission on Prosecution Coordination is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

The revenue impact of this bill is undetermined due to the lack of information available on remote online notary publics.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on February 6, 2019**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill allows notaries public commissioned in South Carolina to register as remote online notaries public.

**Commission on Indigent Defense.** The bill requires the agency to perform activities that will be conducted in the normal course of agency business. As a result, this bill does not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

**Commission on Prosecution Coordination.** A determination of the bill's fiscal impact is pending, as the agency is still reviewing the bill.

**Judicial Department.** The bill creates a new offense triable in General Sessions Court, making it a misdemeanor for a person to conceal, damage, or destroy the certificate, disk, coding, card, program, software, or hardware that allows the notary to affix their seal or electronic signature. As this bill creates a new offense, there is no data available upon which to estimate the number of hearings or trials that may be initiated in General Sessions Court as a result of this legislation. The agency anticipates that any impact from the increased caseload in general sessions would be absorbed by the Judicial Department. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact to the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

**Secretary of State.** The bill requires the Secretary of State to develop and uphold standards for remote online notarization. The Secretary of State's Office expects to manage any additional

expenses within its existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

**State Revenue**

The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to charge a \$50 fee for an applicant to become a remote online notary public. While the current number of paper notary publics is 141,000, it is unknown how many will apply to become remote online notary publics. We contacted two other states that have electronic notaries to find out what percentage of their notaries participate in their prospective electronic notary programs, but no information has been received. Therefore, the revenue impact of this bill is undetermined.

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director