

HB 1193 -- NOTARIES PUBLIC

SPONSOR: Self

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding notaries public. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Removes the requirement that applicants provide their Social Security number on the application;
- (2) Requires applicants to list misdemeanor violations on the application;
- (3) Requires applicants to complete a computer-based or other notary training prior to submitting an application;
- (4) Details the information that notaries must record in their required journals;
- (5) Provides that effective August 28, 2004, the Secretary of State will issue a commission number for all new and renewal notary appointments. The commission number must be included on every notary certificate;
- (6) Requires that a request for an amended commission must be made within 30 days of the change necessitating the amendment;
- (7) Allows notaries to charge a travel fee separate from the notarial fee;
- (8) Requires notaries to notify the Secretary of State immediately if their notary seal is stolen; and
- (9) Clarifies the powers of the Secretary of State to administer the notary public laws.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROponents: Supporters say that changes to the notary law need to be made for security purposes to help combat identity theft. The bill helps the Secretary of State ensure that the applicant for a notary commission is the actual person, that notaries have an understanding of the notary law, and that notary records are correctly kept.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Self; and Office of

Secretary of State.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst