



* * North Carolina Notaries * *

Notaries,

The General Assembly has not finalized action on the extension of the temporary emergency video notarization law, and will not do so before the law sunsets on Monday. We anticipate the General Assembly will be supportive of the extension and we expect it to be part of the upcoming COVID-related budget bill to be rolled out next week. However, other items in the bill are still being negotiated and the temporary emergency remote notarization will expire, even if it is for a short time.

The law will expire at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. After this time, all notarial acts will revert to the original law requiring in-person presence by the principal signers.

Also expiring will be the time extension permitting an appointee to appear before a Register of Deeds within 90 days to take the oath of office. That time will revert back to 45 days.

As mentioned previously, the Secretary of State's Office worked with a stakeholder group over the fall that included realtors, the mortgage banking industry, title insurance, the NC Bar Association and others. We anticipate an extension of the temporary video notarization law soon as part of the second COVID budget bill, and a more permanent solution to be considered later this legislative session.

We will provide you additional updates as we know more.

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