

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2083 Session of  
2001

INTRODUCED BY MCGEEHAN, M. BAKER, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN,  
CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, GEIST, GODSHALL, HARHAI,  
HERMAN, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, LEDERER, MANN, MELIO, OLIVER,  
PETRONE, RAYMOND, RIEGER, ROONEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SCHRODER,  
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J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRELLO, TRICH, WILT, WOGAN, YOUNGBLOOD,  
WASHINGTON AND LUCYK, OCTOBER 24, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 24, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 21, 1953 (P.L.1323, No.373), entitled  
2 "An act concerning notaries public; and amending, revising,  
3 consolidating and changing the law relating thereto," further  
4 providing for register, for copies of records and for certain  
5 powers of notaries.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Sections 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the act of August  
9 21, 1953 (P.L.1323, No.373), known as The Notary Public Law, are  
10 amended to read:

11 Section 15. Register; Copies of Records.--(a) Every notary  
12 public shall keep an accurate register of all official acts by  
13 him done by virtue of his office, and shall, when thereunto  
14 required, give a certified copy of any record in his office to  
15 any person applying for same. Said register shall contain the  
16 date of the act, the character of the act, and the date and  
17 parties to the instrument, and the amount of fee collected for

1 the service. Along with the register the notary public shall  
2 maintain a copy of each identification card presented to the  
3 notary under section 16, 17 or 18.

4 (b) The register and other public papers of such notary  
5 shall not in any case be liable to be seized, attached or taken  
6 in execution for debt or for any demand whatsoever.

7 Section 16. Power to Administer Oaths and Affirmations.--  
8 Notaries shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations,  
9 according to law, in all matters belonging or incident to the  
10 exercise of their notarial office, to any person who first  
11 presents to the notary an identification card that includes a  
12 photograph of the person and that is issued by the Federal  
13 Government, by any state government or by a political  
14 subdivision of this Commonwealth. Any person who shall be  
15 convicted of having wilfully and knowingly made or taken a false  
16 oath or affirmation before any notary in any matters within  
17 their official duties shall be guilty of perjury and shall be  
18 subject to the penalties in such case made and provided.

19 Section 17. Power to Take Acknowledgment of Instruments of  
20 Writing Relating to Commerce or Navigation and to Make  
21 Declarations.--Notaries shall have the power to receive the  
22 proof of acknowledgment of all instruments of writing relating  
23 to commerce or navigation, such as bills of sale, bottomries,  
24 mortgages and hypothecations of ships or vessels, charter  
25 parties of affreightment, letters of attorney, and such other  
26 writings as have been usually proved or acknowledged before  
27 notaries within this Commonwealth, from any person who first  
28 presents to the notary an identification card that includes a  
29 photograph of the person and that is issued by the Federal  
30 Government, by any state government or by a political

1 subdivision of this Commonwealth, and also to make declarations  
2 and testify the truth thereof, under their seals of office,  
3 concerning all matters by them done in virtue of their  
4 respective offices.

5       Section 18. Power to Take Depositions, Affidavits and  
6 Acknowledgment of Writings Relative to Lands.--Notaries shall  
7 have power to take depositions and affidavits, to take and  
8 receive the acknowledgment or proof of all deeds, conveyances,  
9 mortgages, or other instruments or writing touching or  
10 concerning any lands, tenements or hereditaments, situate, lying  
11 and being in any part of this State from any person who first  
12 presents to the notary an identification card that includes a  
13 photograph of the person and that is issued by the Federal  
14 Government, by any state government or by a political  
15 subdivision of this Commonwealth.

16       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.