
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1605 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, CALTAGIRONE,
YOUNGBLOOD, WARREN, KINSEY, CIRESI, SANCHEZ AND MADDEN,
JUNE 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 11, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 57 (Notaries Public) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in revised uniform law on notarial
3 acts, further providing for official stamp.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 317 of Title 57 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 317. Official stamp.

9 (a) Requirements.--The following shall apply to the official
10 stamp of a notary public:

11 (1) A notary public shall provide and keep an official
12 seal, which shall be used to authenticate all the acts,
13 instruments and attestations of the notary public. The seal
14 must be a rubber stamp and must show clearly in the following
15 order:

16 (i) The words "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

17 (ii) The words "Notary Seal."

18 (iii) The name as it appears on the commission of

1 the notary public and the words "Notary Public."

2 (iv) The name of the county in which the notary
3 public maintains an office.

4 (v) The date the notary public's commission expires.

5 (v.1) The sequential identification number assigned
6 to the stamp manufacturer or vendor.

7 (vi) Any other information required by the
8 department.

9 (2) The seal must have a maximum height of one inch and
10 width of three and one-half inches, with a [plain] serrated
11 or scalloped border containing the stamp manufacturer or
12 vendor identification number.

13 (3) The seal must be capable of being copied together
14 with the record to which it is affixed or attached or with
15 which it is logically associated.

16 (b) Authorization of notary stamps.--The following shall
17 apply:

18 (1) No notary stamp shall be manufactured, duplicated,
19 sold or offered for sale unless authorized by the department.

20 (2) The department shall:

21 (i) Issue a permit with a sequential identification
22 number to each manufacturer or vendor authorized to issue
23 notary stamps. The department may establish a fee for the
24 issuance of the permit which may not exceed the actual
25 costs of issuing the permit.

26 (ii) Develop a certificate of authorization to
27 purchase a notary stamp from an authorized manufacturer
28 or vendor. The certificate of authorization shall be
29 designed to prevent forgeries and shall contain a
30 sequential identification number.

1 (c) Certificates of authorization.--

2 (1) The department shall issue a certificate of
3 authorization developed under subsection (b) (2) (ii) for a
4 notary public to obtain an official notary stamp.

5 (2) A manufacturer or vendor shall be authorized to
6 provide a notary public with an official stamp only upon
7 presentation by the notary public of a certificate of
8 authorization.

9 (3) A manufacturer or vendor shall note the receipt of a
10 certificate of authorization and sequential identification
11 number of certificates presented by a notary public upon a
12 certificate of authorization.

13 (4) A copy of a certificate of authorization shall be
14 retained by a vendor and the original, which shall contain a
15 sample impression of the seal issued to the notary public,
16 shall be submitted to the department for verification and
17 recordkeeping.

18 (5) A notary public whose official stamp is lost,
19 misplaced, destroyed, broken, damaged or is rendered
20 otherwise unworkable shall immediately mail or deliver
21 written notice of such to the department. The department,
22 within five business days after receipt of the notice, if
23 requested by a notary public, shall issue a certificate of
24 authorization which a notary public may use to obtain a
25 replacement stamp.

26 (6) A list of authorized stamp manufacturers and vendors
27 shall be mailed to a notary public in this Commonwealth upon
28 the issuance of a commission.

29 (d) Current stamps.--A notary public who holds a commission
30 on the effective date of this subsection may continue to use the

1 notary public's official stamp until the expiration of that
2 commission.

3 (e) Guidelines.--The department shall issue guidelines for
4 the implementation of this section.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 120 days.