

By the Committee on Commerce and Tourism; and Senator Grimsley

577-01817-15

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to notaries public; amending s.  
3 92.525, F.S.; revising the methods available for  
4 verifying documents; amending s. 117.10, F.S.;  
5 defining the term "reliable electronic means";  
6 authorizing specified officers to administer oaths by  
7 reliable electronic means when engaged in the  
8 performance of official duties; providing an effective  
9 date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 92.525, Florida  
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 92.525 Verification of documents; perjury by false written  
16 declaration, penalty.—

17 (1) ~~If~~ When it is authorized or required by law, by rule of  
18 an administrative agency, or by rule or order of court that a  
19 document be verified by a person, the verification may be  
20 accomplished in the following manner:

21 (a) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered before  
22 an officer authorized under s. 92.50 to administer oaths; ~~or~~

23 (b) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered by an  
24 officer authorized under s. 117.10 to administer oaths; or

25 (c) By the signing of the written declaration prescribed in  
26 subsection (2).

27 Section 2. Section 117.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
28 read:

29 117.10 Law enforcement and correctional officers;

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30 administration of oaths.—

31 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "reliable  
32 electronic means" means the signing and transmission of a  
33 document through means compliant with criminal justice  
34 information system security measures. Such signing and  
35 transmission must be made by an affiant to an officer authorized  
36 to administer oaths under subsection (2) under circumstances  
37 that indicate that the document was submitted by the affiant.

38 (2) Law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and  
39 correctional probation officers, as defined in s. 943.10, and  
40 traffic accident investigation officers and traffic infraction  
41 enforcement officers, as described in s. 316.640, are authorized  
42 to administer oaths by reliable electronic means or in the  
43 physical presence of an affiant when engaged in the performance  
44 of official duties. Sections 117.01, 117.04, 117.045, 117.05,  
45 and 117.103 do not apply to ~~the provisions of~~ this section. An  
46 officer may not notarize his or her own signature.

47 (3) An oath administered pursuant to this section is an  
48 acceptable method of verification as provided under s. 92.525.

49 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.