



Ohio Revised Code

Section 147.01 Appointment and commission of notaries public - notary public for state.

Effective: December 29, 2023

Legislation: Senate Bill 131 (GA 134), House Bill 567 (GA 134)

(A) The secretary of state may appoint and commission as notaries public as many persons who meet the qualifications of division (B) of this section as the secretary of state considers necessary.

(B) In order for a person to qualify to be appointed and commissioned as a notary public, except as provided in division (F) of this section, the person shall demonstrate to the secretary of state that the person satisfies all of the following:

(1) The person has attained the age of eighteen years.

(2)(a) Except as provided in division (B)(2)(b) of this section, the person is a legal resident of this state.

(b) The person is not a legal resident of this state, but is an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state by the Ohio supreme court, and has the person's principal place of business or the person's primary practice in this state.

(3)(a) Except as provided in division (B)(3)(b) of this section, the person has submitted a criminal records check report completed within the preceding six months in accordance with section 147.022 of the Revised Code demonstrating that the applicant has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty or no contest to a disqualifying offense as determined in accordance with section 9.79 of the Revised Code.

(b) A person that is an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state or a peace officer shall not be required to submit a criminal records check when applying to be appointed a notary public.

(4)(a) Except as provided in divisions (B)(4)(b) and (c) of this section, the person has successfully completed an educational program and passed a test administered by the entities authorized by the



secretary of state as required under section 147.021 of the Revised Code.

(b) An attorney who is commissioned as a notary public in this state prior to September 20, 2019, shall not be required to complete an education program or pass a test as required in division (B)(4)(a) of this section.

(c) Any attorney who applies to become commissioned as a notary public in this state after September 20, 2019, shall not be required to pass a test as required in division (B)(4)(a) of this section, but shall be required to complete an education program required by that division.

(C) A notary public shall be appointed and commissioned as a notary public for the state. The secretary of state may revoke a commission issued to a notary public upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of official misconduct or incapacity.

(D) The secretary of state shall oversee the processing of notary public applications and shall issue all notary public commissions. The secretary of state shall oversee the creation and maintenance of the online database of notaries public commissioned in this state pursuant to section 147.051 of the Revised Code. The secretary of state may perform all other duties as required by this section. The entities authorized by the secretary of state pursuant to section 147.021 or 147.63 of the Revised Code shall administer the educational program and required test or course of instruction and examination, as applicable.

(E) All submissions to the secretary of state for receiving and renewing commissions, or notifications made under section 147.05 of the Revised Code, shall be done electronically.

(F) The secretary of state shall appoint and commission as a notary public for the state an applicant who is commissioned or licensed as a notary public in another state in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code.

The Legislative Service Commission presents the text of this section as a composite of the section as amended by multiple acts of the General Assembly. This presentation recognizes the principle stated in R.C. 1.52(B) that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation.