

Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Assistant Secretary of State, Kathy Smith; Toby Musser; Penny Reed; Denise Pope; Ken Krach; Lydia Williams; Jean Quattlebaum; Michael Kasnic; Ricky Adams; Kathie Connelly; Bill O'Connell; Michael Chodos; Rick Triola; Josaphine Yuzuik; Marquita Lewis; Michael Schlein

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Alex Scheiffler

Welcome

Assistant Secretary of State, Kathy Smith, called the meeting to order at 1:02PM. She welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts (RULONA) Workgroup.

Introductions

Attendance was taken by Michael Schlein and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2019 Meeting

Assistant Secretary of State, Kathy Smith, asked the Workgroup members if everyone reviewed the March 12, 2019 minutes. Members acknowledged they did. She asked if there were any edits. No edits were suggested. Assistant Secretary Smith asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Jean Quattlebaum made a motion to approve. Denise Pope seconded the motion. Assistant Secretary of State, Kathy Smith, asked members to vote. The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

Objectives of the RULONA Workgroup

Assistant Secretary Smith reviewed the objectives of the RULONA Workgroup, discussed at the March 12, 2019 meeting. She also explained that a bill effecting notary law, Senate Bill 678, passed both houses of the Maryland legislature and is awaiting a determination, while, it's unknown, it's probable the Governor will sign the bill. She assured the Workgroup that recommendations of this Workgroup will be presented to the Secretary for consideration and may be used in the next Session to propose amendments to SB678, as appropriate.

2018 Notary Work Group Final Report and Recommendations

Assistant Secretary Smith invited comments regarding the 2018 Notary Workgroup report, as was done last meeting. No comments were provided at this meeting.

Assistant Secretary Smith asked Subgroup 1 to present their report.

Subgroup 1 Report:

Subgroup 1 Member, Michael Schlein reported on behalf of Reporter, Frieda McWilliams. He reported the summary of work conducted by the Identity Management subgroup. It was reported that Subgroup 1 met and compared the 2018 Recommendations to Sections 1-8 of RULONA. The subgroup found that 2018 Recommendation #13 which involved signer identification was relevant to both Sections 5 and 7 of RULONA. 2018 Recommendations #10 and #19 did not have a direct correlation to Sections 1-8 of RULONA but are related.

Assistant Secretary Smith invited comments from the Work Group. There were none.

Assistant Secretary Smith asked Subgroup 2 to present their report.

Subgroup 2 Report:

Subgroup 2 Reporter, Michael Kasnic, summarized their work. He reported that the subgroup had one discussion; that it centered mostly on SB678 and the impact of SB678 as it relates to RULONA.

Assistant Secretary Smith clarified that it was not the charge of the subgroup to discuss SB678 at that time; that it was supposed to discuss RULONA as it relates to the 2018 Notary Work Group recommendations.

Michael Kasnic: stated that the subgroup did discuss and develop a format to capture the subgroup thoughts but that they will amend that to fit the greater amount of people in their subgroup.

Assistant Secretary Smith asked Subgroup 3 to present their report.

Subgroup 3 Report:

Subgroup 3 Reporter, Toby Musser, reported that the subgroup has developed a spreadsheet for cross-linking RULONA and the 2018 Recommendations that Subgroup 3 is to review. The next meeting of the subgroup will provide more substance on the RULONA; that the first meeting was about process.

Assistant Secretary Smith asked if Subgroup 3 gave any thought to splitting since it has so much information to review.

Toby Musser: The Subgroup will discuss splitting into two separate groups on the next call.

Assistant Secretary Smith sought input on splitting Subgroup 3.

Michael Chodos: believes it is better to keep Subgroup 3 as one right now.

Toby Musser: Plans to assign individuals to each section to get all of their work done. He will report back if there are problems.

Subgroup 4 Report:

Subgroup 4 Reporter, Kathie Connelly, reported that the subgroup linked their sections of RULONA to the 2018 Notary Work Group recommendations. Several topics from the 2018 recommendations were not mentioned in the sections of RULONA that this subgroup is to discuss.

Questions/Comments:

Assistant Secretary Smith recommends that subgroups meet at least once, maybe 2-3 times, between now and the Workgroups next meeting.

Ken Krach: Recommends looking at SB678 to see if it did not include something from RULONA that should be included and to see if something from RULONA that was included in SB678 should not be included.

Assistant Secretary Smith summarized that there are three documents to consider now: RULONA, SB678, and the 2018 Notary Work Group recommendations. Michael Schlein will contact subgroup leaders about SB678 after determining how that aligns with RULONA.

Assistant Secretary Smith announced that Michael Schlein, Co-Chair, will lead the group in her absence, starting prior to the next meeting. She expects to return at the end of summer.

Adjournment

Assistant Secretary Smith thanked everyone for their commitment to participating in the RULONA Workgroup.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.