



Notary Bulletin

Nebraska Secretary of State John A. Gale

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LB 398 changes laws governing notaries

The Nebraska laws governing notary publics will be changing soon, according to Secretary of State John Gale.

The 2012 Legislature passed LB 398, which changes certain laws relating to the duties and qualifications of notary publics in Nebraska. LB 398 becomes effective on July 19, 2012.

Under the new law, a person with a misdemeanor conviction involving fraud or dishonesty will be able to obtain a notary public commission five years after their conviction. In addition, a person residing in a state bordering Nebraska will be able to become a Nebraska notary if the person is employed or has a regular place of work or business in Nebraska.



Further provisions of the bill clarify the duties and responsibilities of a notary. The bill removes vague and broad language about the duties of a notary and instructs the notary not to notarize a document when the notary has a financial or beneficial interest in the transaction or is individually named in the transaction.

The new law removes outdated petition language, clarifies provisions relating to disciplinary hearings and allows the secretary of state to establish rules and regulations for notary publics.

"It is imperative that we in Nebraska continue to maintain high standards for our notary publics and continue to shape our notary law so that the roles and responsibilities of a notary in Nebraska are clearly defined and understood," Gale said.

More information about the new law and the rules and regulations will be provided in future editions of the Notary Bulletin. View the [full text of LB 398](#).

What does the 'SS' symbol mean on documents?

When notarizing documents, Nebraska notary publics may see the letters "SS." The "SS" symbol is placed adjacent to the blanks for venue information (State of Nebraska, County of _____) that follows the caption of a legal document.

Many notaries don't know the meaning of the "SS" symbol. "SS" is actually an abbreviation for a traditional part of the venue section of a notary certificate. The letters stand for the Latin word "scilicet," which means "in particular" or "namely."

Notaries accustomed to seeing the "SS" symbol as part of the venue may become concerned if it is missing. The letters "SS" are not required.

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