

## Committee on Commerce and Tourism

### **CS/HB 121 — Notaries Public**

by Civil Justice and Property Rights Subcommittee and Rep. Garrison and others (CS/CS/CS/SB 228 by Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; Commerce and Tourism Committee; and Senators Bradley and Burgess)

The bill provides the following updates to the recently created process for online notarizations in ch. 117, F.S.:

- Institutes a self-certification requirement for remote online notarization service providers to ensure their eligibility to assist with the provision of notary services;
- Transfers specific duties from online notaries public to their remote online notarization service providers;
- Requires the Department of State to publish information about active and inactive online notaries public and remote online notarization service providers;
- Permits online notaries to rely on a foreign passport of an individual who is currently outside of the borders of the United States to perform an online notarization;
- Implements privacy requirements for personally identifying information given during an online notarization;
- Provides several clarifications and technical updates to the process of online notarizations provided for in ch. 117, F.S.; and
- Allows for remote swearing in of witnesses for court proceedings and attorney admission to The Florida Bar.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on January 1, 2022.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 115-0*