

# **Report on the Status of the State of New Jersey's Notary Education**

**Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services  
New Jersey Department of the Treasury  
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**Table of Contents**

Introduction .....3  
Historical Background.....3  
Summary of Commissioning Activity .....3  
Assessment on the Need for New or Changed Educational Content .....4  
Estimated Timelines for Delivering New or Changed Content.....4  
Conclusion.....4

## Introduction

This annual report outlines the status of New Jersey’s notary public education program, which is administered by the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services (herein referred to as “The Division”).

Under State law (P.L.2021, c.179), the State Treasurer is tasked with publishing on the Department of the Treasury’s website a report on the state of notary education in New Jersey, on or before September 30 each year. The required reporting elements are as follows:

1. Summary of commissioning activity
2. An assessment regarding the need for new or changed educational content
3. The estimated timelines for delivering the new or changed content

## Historical Background

As reported by the Division last year, P.L.2021, c.179 established the foundations for an updated notarial program.

The Division implemented the general provisions of P.L.2021, c.179 on October 21, 2021, and implemented the educational/testing requirements on July 22, 2022.

The Division adopted new administrative rules for the Notary Public program on January 11, 2022 (N.J.A.C.17.50 et seq.). These rules are set to expire on January 11, 2029.

## Summary of Commissioning Activity

Following is a summary of commissioning activity both prior to and since the implementation of the educational and testing requirements of P.L.2021, c.179:

<b>Prior to the Implementation of P.L.2021, c.179</b>	
Total commissions granted from 06/31/2021 through 07/01/2022	51,135
<b>Since the Implementation of P.L.2021, c.179</b>	
Number of new commissions granted from 07/01/2022 through 08/31/2023	12,582
Number of renewed commissions granted from 07/01/2022 through 08/31/2023	20,418
Total Commissions:	33,000

The total commissions granted from July 2022 through August 2023 is 18,135 lower than the total commissions granted during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the implementation of the education and testing requirements of P.L.2021, c.179. The Division attributes this decline to the stricter commissioning standards now required by law.

## **Assessment on the Need for New or Changed Educational Content**

During the past year, the Division reviewed other State programs that require education and testing as a prerequisite for granting notary commissions and conducted detailed walk-throughs of several educational and testing sites managed by online third-party service providers. Based on our review, the Division plans to create an online video-based class that will guide applicants through the various sections of the Manual and offer sample questions to test applicants' knowledge of the Manual.

## **Estimated Timelines for Delivering New or Changed Content**

The Division had originally intended to contract with a third-party service provider to develop the online video-based class. However, the Division determined that, due to budgetary and contracting constraints, this option was not feasible. Accordingly, the Division is currently working on an in-house production project and will confirm timelines for delivering the new educational content as the effort progresses.

## **Conclusion**

The Division continues to successfully implement and operate the general provisions of P.L.2021, c.179.

The Division is currently working on an in-house production project to develop an online video-based class and will confirm timelines for delivering the new educational content as the effort progresses.