

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

New Jersey Department of the Treasury
Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services
Fiscal Year 2025

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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

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 administrative rules for the Notary Public program on January 11, 2022 (N.J.A.C.17.50 et seq.) and continues to operate under those rules. The rules are set to expire on January 11, 2029.

Summary of Commissioning Activity

Following is a summary of commissioning activity for Fiscal Years 2023-2025:

Notary Public Commissioning	July 2022 - June 2023	July 2023 - June 2024	July 2024 - June 2025
Number of new commissions	10,605	9,002	10,605
Number of renewed commissions	16,318	16,314	16,446
Total Commissions:	26,923	25,316	27,051

Assessment of the Need for New or Changed Educational Content

Current Notary Public Educational Content

The Division provides a comprehensive Notary Public Manual that serves as an essential guide for anyone aspiring to become a notary public in the state. This manual meticulously outlines the duties, responsibilities, and legal requirements that notaries must adhere to. It covers a wide range of topics, including the types of notarial acts notaries are authorized to perform, the procedures for verifying the identity of signers, and the ethical standards expected of notaries. By offering clear and detailed information, the manual ensures that notaries are well-informed about their roles and the legal framework within which they operate.

Moreover, the Notary Public Manual is an invaluable resource for understanding the specific laws that govern notarial acts in New Jersey. It provides insights into state-specific regulations, such as record-keeping practices, remote online notarization, electronic notarization, and the permissible fees for notarial services. This manual not only helps notaries fulfill their duties effectively but also ensures they remain compliant with New Jersey's notary laws.

In addition to the comprehensive Notary Public Manual, the Division offers a series of training videos designed to provide supplementary educational content for aspiring and current notaries. These videos delve deeper into various aspects of notarial duties, offering visual and auditory learning experiences that complement the manual's written instructions. Topics covered in these videos include detailed walkthroughs of notarial procedures, practical tips for handling common scenarios, and explanations of complex legal requirements. By integrating these multimedia resources with the manual, notaries can gain a more thorough understanding of their responsibilities, ensuring they are well-prepared to perform their duties with confidence and compliance.

Future Plans:

- **Manual Update:** The Division plans to update the Notary Public Manual to align with national standards.
- **New Training Video:** A new training video will be created to address the risks of fraudulent activities within notarial acts. Publication of the new video is planned for the 2nd quarter of 2027.
- **Updates to Notary Public examination:** The Division will modify the current examination's questions and format to help ensure that it thoroughly tests the ability of aspiring notaries ability to understand the legal and practical requirements required by accepting the responsibility of the duly commissioned New Jersey Notary Public.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Adjustments:** The Division will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to ensure it meets the evolving needs of notary publics.

Conclusion

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