

CHAPTER 2015-23

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 526

An act relating to notaries public; amending s. 92.525, F.S.; revising the methods available for verifying documents; amending s. 117.10, F.S.; defining the term “reliable electronic means”; authorizing specified officers to administer oaths by reliable electronic means when engaged in the performance of official duties; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 92.525, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

92.525 Verification of documents; perjury by false written declaration, penalty.—

(1) ~~If~~ ~~When it is~~ authorized or required by law, by rule of an administrative agency, or by rule or order of court that a document be verified by a person, the verification may be accomplished in the following manner:

(a) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered before an officer authorized under s. 92.50 to administer oaths; ~~or~~

(b) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered by an officer authorized under s. 117.10 to administer oaths; or

(c) By the signing of the written declaration prescribed in subsection (2).

Section 2. Section 117.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

117.10 Law enforcement and correctional officers; administration of oaths.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “reliable electronic means” means the signing and transmission of a document through means compliant with criminal justice information system security measures. Such signing and transmission must be made by an affiant to an officer authorized to administer oaths under subsection (2) under circumstances that indicate that the document was submitted by the affiant.

(2) Law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and correctional probation officers, as defined in s. 943.10, and traffic accident investigation officers and traffic infraction enforcement officers, as described in s. 316.640, are authorized to administer oaths by reliable electronic means or in the physical presence of an affiant when engaged in the performance of official duties. Sections 117.01, 117.04, 117.045, 117.05, and 117.103 do not apply to the provisions of this section. An officer may not notarize his or her own signature.

(3) An oath administered pursuant to this section is an acceptable method of verification as provided under s. 92.525.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor May 14, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 14, 2015.