



**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1032, RELATING TO NOTARY PUBLIC SEALS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009 **TIME:** 2:15 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General,
or Shari Wong, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Herkes and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to require the notary public's commission number on the notary public's stamp or seal. This requirement will help to deter the fraudulent use of notary stamps or seals in that the commission number can be used to quickly ascertain whether the notary public was properly commissioned in this State.

In addition, notarized documents are frequently copied numerous times so that subsequent generations of the originals are blurry or difficult to read. Given the sometimes small size of notary stamps or seals, the names of the notaries public are difficult to read or ascertain. Names are often similar. The additional identifying information of the commission number is unique and will assist in ascertaining the correct notary public.

In other instances, a notary public may marry or change the notary public's name. Because the commission number is unique, our office will be able to better track the notary public, regardless of change in name or marital status.

Lastly, commission numbers are assigned to notaries public according to the year in which they are commissioned. Thus, the

inclusion of this identifying number on a notary public's stamp or seal may help in locating that notary public's record books.

Several other states, such as California, Oregon, and New York, similarly require the commission number on the notary public's stamp or seal.

We respectfully urge passage of this bill.