

House Bill 1571

By: Representative Birdsong of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 17 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 notaries public, so as to define certain terms; to provide that a notary public shall have
3 personal knowledge or evidence of the identity of the person whose signature he or she
4 notarizes; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 17 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to notaries public,
8 is amended by inserting immediately following Code Section 45-17-8.2 a new Code section
9 to read as follows:

10 "45-17-8.3.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Personal knowledge' means familiarity with an individual resulting from interactions
13 with that individual over a period of time sufficient to ensure beyond a reasonable doubt
14 that the individual has the identity he or she claims.

15 (2) 'Satisfactory evidence of identity' consists of either:

16 (A) At least one current document issued by a federal or state governmental agency
17 bearing the photographic image of an individual's face, his or her signature, and a
18 physical description of the individual;

19 (B) A valid passport;

20 (C) The oath or affirmation of one credible person of whom the notary public has
21 personal knowledge who is unaffected by the document or transaction being notarized
22 that he or she has personal knowledge of the individual being identified; or

23 (D) The oath or affirmation of two credible persons who are unaffected by the
24 document or transaction being notarized that each has personal knowledge of an
25 individual and each of whom presents documentation set forth in subparagraph (A) or
26 (B) of this paragraph.

1 (b) A notary public shall not perform a notarial act unless he or she has personal knowledge
2 or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the person whose signature is being notarized."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.