MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1505

H.P. 1032

House of Representatives, April 11, 1991

Submitted by the Department of the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 24. Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Representative GRAY of Sedgwick and Representative LOOK of Jonesboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Update Certain Laws Regarding Corporations, Lobbyists and Notaries.



Be it	enacted	by t	the I	People	of the	State	of	Maine	as	follows:
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Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §313, as amended by PL 1977, c. 108, §1, is further amended to read:

§313. Registration of lobbyists and employers

Any person acting as a lobbyist and the person who employs that lobbyist shall jointly register at the office of the Secretary of State no later than 7 15 business days after the commencement of activities constituting lobbying and a fee, as determined by the Secretary of State, shall must be paid for such joint registration.

Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §319, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

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1-A. Notice of suspension. Any person who fails to file a report or pay a fee as required by this chapter may be suspended from further lobbying by written notice of the Secretary of State until such failure is corrected.

Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §951, as amended by PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

§951. Seal; authority to administer oaths

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A notary public may <u>must</u> keep a seal of office, whereen-is engraven <u>engraved</u> with the notary public's name <u>exactly</u> as it <u>appears</u> on the notary commission, and the words "Notary Public" and "Maine" or its abbreviation "Me.," with the arms of state or such other device as the notary public chooses. <u>When a notarial commission is resigned, revoked or expires, the notary or heirs shall destroy the official seal or send it to the Secretary of <u>State for destruction</u>. When authorized by the laws of this State or of any other state or country to do any official act, the notary public may administer any oath necessary to the completion or validity thereef of the Act.</u>

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Sec. 4. 4 MRSA $\S955$ -B, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 573, $\S3$, is amended to read:

§955-B. Maintenance of records

The Secretary of State shall recommend that every Every notary public shall keep and maintain records of all notarial acts performed. The notary shall safeguard and retain exclusive custody of these records. The notary may not surrender the records to another notary or to an employer. The records may be inspected in the notary's presence by any individual whose identity is personally known to the notary or is proven on the basis of satisfactory evidence and who specifies the notarial act to be examined.

Sec. 5. 4 MRSA §959 is enacted to read: \$959. Grandfather clause; seal; records 6 The requirements to keep a seal under section 951 and records under section 955-B are not in force for notaries who are commissioned before November 1, 1991. If the commissions are renewed, the requirements of those sections take effect upon 10 renewal. 12 Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §82, 3rd ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, \$15, is amended to read: 14 The Secretary of State shall adopt rules relating to the appointment and renewal of commissions of notaries public. The 16 rules shall must include criteria and a procedure to be applied 18 by the Secretary of State in appointment and renewal. Secretary of State may not refuse to appoint or renew solely 20 because the applicant lives or works in a specific geographic area or because of political party affiliation. 22 Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §82, last ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 24 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §15, is repealed. 26 Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §82-A is enacted to read: 28 §82-A. Publications 30 1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State shall make available such informational publications as may be 32 necessary to ensure that notaries public are knowledgeable in the performance of their duties. The Secretary of State may 34 establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act the procedures for the sale of these publications 36 and a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and distribution. 38 Fund; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary 40 of State for replacing and updating publications offered in accordance with this chapter and for funding new publications. 42 Sec. 9. 10 MRSA c. 301-A, first 2 lines, as amended, are repealed and the following enacted in their place: 44 CHAPTER 301-A 46 48 THE REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION OF MARKS 50 Sec. 10. 10 MRSA §1521, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 572,

§2, is amended to read:

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	5. Registrant. "Registrant" includes the person to whom the
2	registration of a trademark <u>mark</u> under this chapter is issued, his <u>the registrant's</u> legal representatives, successors or assigns.
4	Has the registrant's regar representatives, successors or assigns.
б.	Sec. 11. 10 MRSA §1521, last \P , as enacted by PL 1979, c. 572, $\S 2$, is repealed.
8 10	Sec. 12. 10 MRSA §§1521-A, 1525-A, 1527-A, 1527-B, 1527-C and 1527-D are enacted to read:
12	§1521-A. Use of marks
16	For the purpose of this chapter, a mark is determined to be
14	used in this State on goods when it is placed in any manner on
16	the goods or their containers or the displays associated with the goods or on the tags or labels affixed to the goods and the goods
10	are sold or otherwise distributed in the State and on services
18	when it is used or displayed in the sale or advertising of
-	services and the services are rendered in this State.
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	§1525-A. Amendment
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	The registration of a mark may be amended by adding or
24	removing one or more classes of goods and services under section
26	1527, subsection 2. The amendment must be in writing and recorded with the Secretary of State and accompanied by a filing
20	fee of \$10 for each class affected, payable to the Treasurer of
2.8	the State. The Secretary of State may prescribe a form for this
	purpose. The Secretary of State upon recording of an amendment
30	shall issue a new certificate for the remainder of the term of
•	the registration or of the last renewal.
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	§1527-A. Powers of the Secretary of State
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26	The Secretary of State has the power and authority
36	reasonably necessary to administer this chapter efficiently and to perform the duties imposed upon the secretary. These powers
38	include, without limitation:
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40	1. Rulemaking. The power to make rules not inconsistent with this chapter;
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	2. Forms; required. The power to prescribe forms for all
44	documents required or permitted to be filed with the Secretary of
16	State and to refuse to file documents not utilizing the prescribed forms to the extent possible; and
46	prescribed forms to the extent possible; and
48	3. Refuse filing of documents. The power to refuse to file
	any document that is not clearly legible or may not be clearly
50	reproducible photographically.
52	§1527-B. Expedited service

The Secretary of State may provide an expedited service for the processing of documents in accordance with this chapter. If the service is provided, the Secretary of State shall establish by rule a fee schedule and governing procedures in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All fees collected as provided by this section must be deposited into a fund for use by the Secretary of State in providing an improved filing service.

10 §1527-C. Access to Secretary of State's database

The Secretary of State may provide public access to the database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the database. If access to the database is provided to the public, the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee schedule and governing procedures.

§1527-D. Publications

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- 22 <u>1. Informational publications.</u> The Secretary of State may establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative 24 Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for 26 the sale of these publications.
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 2. Fund; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary

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 of State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications offered in accordance with this chapter and for funding new publications.

Sec. 13. 11 MRSA §§9-409 to 9-412 are enacted to read:

§9-409. Expedited service

The Secretary of State may provide an expedited service for the processing of documents in accordance with this Part. If the service is provided, the Secretary of State shall establish by rule a fee schedule and governing procedures in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All fees collected as provided by this section must be deposited into a fund for use by the Secretary of State in providing an improved filing service.

§9-410. Access to Secretary of State's database

The Secretary of State may provide public access to the database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the database. If access to the database is provided to the public, the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with

the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee schedule and governing procedures.

\$9-411. Publications

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- 1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State may establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for the sale of these publications.
- 2. Funds; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary of State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications offered in accordance with this Part and for funding new publications.

§9-412. Federal tax liens

- The Secretary of State may accept electronic filings of federal tax liens. The Secretary of State may establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act the procedures and standards for electronic filings of federal tax liens.
- Sec. 14. 13 MRSA §903, as amended by PL 1977, c. 522, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§903. Recording certificate

They The incorporators shall prepare, sign and make oath to a certificate setting forth the name, location, officers and directors, trustees or managing board and purposes of corporation. The certificate shall must clearly state that the corporation is not organized for profit and that no property or profit of the corporation shall-inure inures to the benefit of any person, partnership or corporation except in furtherance of the benevolent or nemprefit-making nonprofit purposes of the corporation. After it the certificate has been examined by the Secretary of State and been-by-him certified to be properly drawn and signed and to be conformable to the Constitution and laws, it shall must be recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where said corporation is located, in a book kept for that purpose. Within 60 90 days after approval of said certificate, a copy thereof certified by such the register shall must be filed in the Office of Secretary of State, who shall enter the date of filing thereen on the copy and on the original certificate to be kept by the corporation and shall record said copy in a book kept for that purpose and the corporation may commence business. The Secretary of State shall--receive receives for filing such certificate or amendment therete, a fee of \$5 in advance and

2	registers of deeds shallreceive <u>receive</u> for recording such certificate or amendment therete, the fee of \$8.
4	Sec. 15. 13 MRSA §§904 and 905 are enacted to read:
б	§904. Access to Secretary of State's database
8	The Secretary of State may provide public access to the database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a
10	dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the database. If access to the database is provided to the public,
12	the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee
14	schedule and governing procedures.
16	§905. Publications
18	1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State may establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative
20	Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for
22	the sale of these publications.
24	2. Funds; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary
26	of State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications offered in accordance with this Title and for funding new
28	publications.
30	Sec. 16. 13-A MRSA $\$106$, sub- $\$1$, \PE and F , as enacted by PL 1971, c. 439, $\$1$, are amended to read:
32	E. The Secretary of State shall promptly make a copy of the
34	original, and shall eertify attest the copy by making upon it the same endorsement which is required to appear upon the
36	original, together with a further endorsement that the copy is a true copy of the original document.
38	F. The copy, so eertified attested, shall must be returned
40	to the person or persons delivering the documents to the Secretary of State and it shall must be retained as a part
42	of the permanent records of the corporation.
44	Sec. 17. 13-A MRSA §703, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 439, §1, is repealed.
46	Sec. 18. 13-A MRSA §1207, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1971,
48	c. 439, §1, is amended to read:
50	B. Enlarge, limit or otherwise change the business or businesses which it seeks authority to engage in in this
52	State.: or

C. Change the address of its registered office or principal office in its jurisdiction of incorporation.

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- Sec. 20. 13-A MRSA §1301, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. L, §22, is further amended to read:
- D. The name and business or residence address of each director-and-officer the president, the treasurer, the clerk or registered agent and directors of the corporation, including the street or rural route number, town or city, and state.
- Sec. 21. 13-A MRSA §1301, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1989, c. 732, §5, is further amended to read:

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The annual report must be executed as provided by 20 section 104, except that signing by any one of the president, a vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer or an assistant 22 secretary or any other duly authorized individual, without a 2nd signature, may be deemed considered valid under section 104, subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (2). 24 Subject to rules adopted under section 1303, subsection 4, the report must be delivered to the Secretary of State or designee for filing. The 26 annual reports must may be delivered to the Secretary of State on 28 a staggered basis as defined by the Secretary of State by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, 30 chapter 375. The report must apply to the 12-month period specified by the Secretary of State. Proof to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that, prior to the date that penalties 32 become effective for late delivery of annual reports as 34 established by the Secretary of State by rule, the report was deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope, properly addressed, with postage prepaid, is deemed-a compliance 36 with this requirement. One copy of the report, together with the filing fee required by this Act, must be delivered for filing to 38 the Secretary of State who shall file the report, if the 40 Secretary of State finds that it conforms to the requirements of If the Secretary of State finds that it does not so conform, the Secretary of State shall promptly mail or otherwise 42 return the same to the corporation for any necessary corrections, in which event the penalties prescribed by this Act for failure 44 to file such report within the time herein provided do not apply, if such report is corrected to conform to the requirements of 46 this Act and returned to the Secretary of State within 30 days 48 from the date on which it was so mailed or otherwise returned to the corporation by the Secretary of State.

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Sec. 22. 13-A MRSA $\S1301$, sub- $\S5$, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. L, $\S25$, is further amended to read:

- 5. The shareholders of a corporation which has been excused pursuant to subsection 4 may vote to resume transacting business at a meeting duly called and held for such that purpose. A certificate executed and filed as provided in sections 104 and 106 setting forth that a shareholders' meeting was held, the date and location of same, and that a majority of the shareholders voted to resume transacting business shall—authorize—such authorizes that corporation to transact business; and after such that certificate is filed, it—shall—be the corporation is required to file annual reports beginning with the next reporting deadline following resumption as established by subsection 3.
- 14 Sec. 23. 13-A MRSA §1403-A, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. L, §31, is amended to read:

\$1403-A. Expedited service

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The Secretary of State may provide an expedited service for the processing of documents in accordance with this Act. A fee schedule shall must be established and rules premulgated adopted to set forth the procedures governing this expedited service. All fees collected as provided by this section must be deposited into a fund for use by the Secretary of State in providing an improved filing service.

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Sec. 24. 13-A MRSA §1404, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. L, §32, is further amended to read:

§1404. Remittance to Treasurer of State

All fees collected as provided by this chapter shall must be remitted to the Treasurer of State for the use of the State with the exception of those fees collected under section 1403-A which shall-be-deposited into-a-fund-fer-use-by-the-Secretary-of-State in-providing-an-improved-filing-service and section 1406.

Sec. 25. 13-A MRSA §§1405 and 1406 are enacted to read:

§1405. Access to Secretary of State's database

The Secretary of State may provide public access to the database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the database. If access to the database is provided to the public, the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee schedule and governing procedures.

\$1406. Publications

	1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State may
2	establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative
	Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and
4	distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for
	the sale of these publications.
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	2. Funds; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to
8	this section must deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary of
	State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications
10	offered in accordance with this Title and for funding new
	publications.
12	CL OZ 10 TO BETTOCK C100 B. CF A
-	Sec. 26. 13-B MRSA §102, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:
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	5-A. Domestic condominium corporation. "Domestic
16	condominium corporation" means a nonprofit condominium
10	corporation formed in this State under Title 33, section 1603-101.
18	Soc 27 12 R MDSA S106 sub S1 SSE and F as another by DI
30	Sec. 27. 13-B MRSA §106, sub-§1, ¶¶E and F, as enacted by PL
20	1977, c. 525, §13, are amended to read:
22	E. The Secretary of State shall promptly make a copy of the
	original and shall eertify attest the copy by making upon it
24	the same endorsement which is required to appear upon the
	original, together with a further endorsement that the copy
26	is a true copy of the original document; and
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28	F. The copy, so eertified attested, shall must be returned
	to the person or persons delivering the documents to the
30	Secretary of State and it shall must be retained as a part
	of the permanent records of the corporation.
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	Sec. 28. 13-B MRSA §1207, sub-§1, ¶¶A and B, as enacted by PL
34	1977, c. 525, §13, are amended to read:
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36	A. Change its corporate name, provided that such change has
	been effected under the laws of its jurisdiction of
38	incorporation; er
40	B. Enlarge, limit or otherwise change the kinds of
	activities which it seeks authority to engage in in this
42	State <u>; or</u>
	C. AA 12 TO NATECIA CIAAR II CI ACI
44	Sec. 29. 13-B MRSA $\S1207$, sub- $\S1$, \PC is enacted to read:
46	C. Change the address of its registered office or principal
4.0	office in its jurisdiction of incorporation.
48	Soc 20 12 D MDCA 21201 cm 51 ac
· 50	Sec. 30. 13-B MRSA §1301, sub-§1, ¶C, as repealed and replaced

The names and business or residence addresses of the efficers president, the treasurer, the registered agent and the secretary or clerk of the corporation, including the street or rural route number, town, or city, and state. Sec. 31. 13-B MRSA §1301-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1989, c. б 875, Pt. E, \$12, is amended to read: 8 Vote to carry on activities. The members entitled to vote or, if none, the directors of a corporation that has been 10 excused pursuant to subsection 5, may vote to resume carrying on activities at a meeting called and held for that purpose. 12 certificate, executed and filed as provided in sections 104 and 14 106, setting forth that a members' or directors' meeting was held, the date and location of the meeting and that a majority of the members or directors voted to resume carrying on activities, 16 authorizes that corporation to carry on activities; and after that certificate is filed, the corporation is required to file 18 annual biennial reports beginning with the next reporting 20 deadline following resumption as established by subsection 4. 22 Sec. 32. 13-B MRSA §1402-A is enacted to read: 24 \$1402-A. Expedited service 26 The Secretary of State may provide an expedited service for the processing of documents in accordance with this Title. If the service is provided, the Secretary of State shall establish 28 by rule a fee schedule and governing procedures in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All fees collected 30 as provided by this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary of State in providing an improved filing service. 32 Sec. 33. 13-B MRSA §1403, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 525, §13, . 34 is amended to read: 36 \$1403. Remittance to Treasurer of State 38 All fees collected as provided by this chapter shall must be remitted to the Treasurer of State for the use of the State with 40 the exception of those fees collected under sections 1402-A and 42 1405. Sec. 34. 13-B MRSA §§1404 and 1405 are enacted to read: 44 46 \$1404. Access to Secretary of State's database The Secretary of State may provide public access to the 48 database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the 50 database. If access to the database is provided to the public, the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with 52

the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee 2 schedule and governing procedures. \$1405. Publications 1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State may 6 establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and 8 distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for the sale of these publications. 10 2. Fund; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to 12 this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary of State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications 14 offered in accordance with this Title and for funding new publications. 16 Sec. 35. 31 MRSA §§182 to 184 are enacted to read: 18 \$182. Expedited service 20 The Secretary of State may provide an expedited service for 22 the processing of documents in accordance with this chapter. If the service is provided, the Secretary of State shall establish 24 by rule a fee schedule and governing procedures in accordance 26 with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All fees collected as provided by this section must be deposited into a fund for use by the Secretary of State in providing an improved filing service. 28 30 \$183. Access to Secretary of State's database The Secretary of State may provide public access to the 32 database of the Department of the Secretary of State through a dial-in modem, public terminals and electronic duplicates of the 34 database. If access to the database is provided to the public, the Secretary of State may promulgate rules in accordance with 36 the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a fee schedule and governing procedures. 38 \$184. Publications 40 1. Informational publications. The Secretary of State may 42 establish by rule in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act a fee schedule to cover the cost of printing and 44 distribution of publications and to set forth the procedures for

this section must be deposited in a fund for use by the Secretary 50 of State for the purpose of replacing and updating publications

offered in accordance with this chapter and for funding new publications.

2. Funds; fees deposited. All fees collected pursuant to

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the sale of these publications.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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The bill changes the period for lobbyists to register with the Secretary of State from 7 to 15 days. The bill also allows the Secretary of State to suspend a lobbyist's registration if the lobbyist fails to file a report or pay a fee.

The bill also requires notaries to have a seal and to keep records of all notarial acts. The bill grandfathers existing notaries from having a seal or keeping records. The bill also requires that a seal must be destroyed or returned to the Secretary of State when the commission ends.

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of State must notify the register of probate and clerk of the Judicial Court of newly appointed notaries. The bill gives the Secretary of State the authority to publish and distribute publications to inform notaries of their duties and allows the Secretary of State to charge a fee for the publication.

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The bill amends the laws dealing with trademarks so that it also includes the word "marks" to reflect more accurately the purpose of the law. The bill allows a registrant to amend a registration to change a mark or trademark. The bill permits the Secretary of State to promulgate rules and set fees to improve and expedite the filing process for mark registrations.

The bill also amends the laws dealing with Uniform Commercial Code filings, registering marks and filing corporation papers so that the Secretary of State is permitted to adopt rules and charge fees for publications to improve and expedite the filing process.

The bill also allows the Secretary of State to accept direct electronic filings from the federal Office of the Internal Revenue Service.

The bill extends the period in which a register of deeds has to file a certified copy of a noncapital stock corporation's certificate with the Secretary of State from 60 to 90 days. The bill allows the Secretary of State to provide public access to the Department of the Secretary of State's database.

The bill amends the laws dealing with corporations so that the Secretary of State may send attested copies of corporate documents rather than certified copies. The bill allows the Secretary of State to provide public access to the corporation database. The bill requires foreign corporations to file amendments with the Secretary of State when they change their addresses in the State where they are incorporated. The bill

gives the Secretary of State the discretionary authority to stagger corporate annual filing dates.

The bill provides a definition for "domestic condominium corporation."

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The bill amends the laws pertaining to filing of limited partnerships to be similar to the laws pertaining to the filing of corporation papers. The changes help to expedite the filings of limited partnerships. The bill allows the Secretary of State to provide public access to the Department of the Secretary of State's database and permits the Secretary of State to promulgate rules to establish fees to distribute publications providing information on limited partnership to the public.