

HOUSE BILL 244

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3lr1112
CF SB 253

By: **Delegates Terrasa, Attar, Bartlett, Ebersole, Foley, Guzzone, Henson, Hill, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, Lehman, McCaskill, Ruth, Stewart, Taveras, Wu, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Estates and Trusts – Registers of Wills – Electronic Filing and Signatures**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a register of wills to accept certain documents filed
4 electronically through a system established by the register of wills; prohibiting a
5 register of wills from refusing to accept a document based on the manner in which it
6 was signed; and generally relating to the filing of documents with a register of wills.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Estates and Trusts

9 Section 2–214

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Estates and Trusts**

15 **2–214.**

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELECTRONIC”, “SIGN”, AND “WILL” HAVE THE
17 MEANINGS STATED IN § 4–101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **(B) (1) A REGISTER SHALL ACCEPT ANY DOCUMENT, EXCEPT AN**
2 **ORIGINAL WILL, THAT IS FILED:**

3 **(I) ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH A SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY**
4 **THE REGISTER; AND**

5 **(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND RULES.**

6 **(2) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT**
7 **THE FILING OF A DOCUMENT IN PAPER FORM WITH A REGISTER.**

8 **(C) A REGISTER MAY NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY DOCUMENT BASED ON**
9 **THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS SIGNED.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.