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February 9, 2021

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: The Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 360 – State Government – Notaries Public – Notary Public Fund and Remote
Notarial Acts – **Letter of Support**

Amid a pandemic, Maryland's effort to authorize remote notarizations has become more important than ever. These services allow Marylanders to safely execute documents needed to buy a house or transfer a car. At the same time, the Secretary of State's role in administering notary laws has become just as important, because even remote notaries must be reliable and secure. As the Secretary works to learn and fairly regulate the new technologies that make remote notaries possible, staff and counsel must research and answer new pressing questions. Senate Bill 360 sets aside the money that people pay to become notaries so that it can fund this important work. The guaranteed funding means that the Secretary will have the resources needed to adapt swiftly to this changing industry.

cc: Members of the Committee