

Transcript of public hearing for rulemaking activity

WAC 308-30-220 – Fees for notarial acts

Ellis Starrett (00:03):

Good morning. This is a public hearing before the Washington State Department of Licensing being held to elicit public testimony, both oral and written, with regard to proposed rules amending WAC 308-30-220. These proposed rules would increase the maximum fees a notary may charge for notarial acts from \$10 to \$15 per a rulemaking petition DLL received from the public.

(00:30):

This hearing is being held via Zoom and in person at 1125 Washington Street, Southeast Olympia, Washington. This hearing is taking place at 11:00 A.M. on May 21, 2024. Public notice of this hearing was given by notice number WSR 24-09-086 filed with the Code Reviser's Office on April 17, 2024. The department posts all of our rulemaking information at dol.wa.gov/about/rulemaking-activity. And this is where you can access all rulemaking notices and proposed language for this rulemaking.

(01:15):

The sign-in sheet, your testimony, and any documents you provide are public documents. This rule is proposed pursuant to the provisions of RCW 42.45.170 and RCW 42.45.250.

(01:33):

My name is Ellis Starrett and my title is Rules and Policy Manager. The Director of Licensing has designated teams to provide over this hearing. Representatives of the Washington State Department of Licensing are present today if there are questions. Lauren Gilmore, Management Analyst Five, Ben Harbaugh, Management Analyst Four, Shawna Herron ... Nope, Shawna's not here.

Lauren Gilmore (01:57):

Mm-mm.

Ellis Starrett (01:58):

Austin Koller, Management Analyst Three.

(02:03):

I'm just checking here. Dee Sharp, Administrator, and ... Program Manager, sorry, Dee. And Kelsey Stone, Legislative and Policy Analyst. It's going very smoothly.

(02:19):

The procedures today will be as follows. The department is required to make a record of this hearing by sonographic, mechanical or electronic means. Therefore, we are audio recording this hearing. For virtual attendees wishing to testify, please provide your name and contact

information in the chat or tell us you'd like to testify when I call on your screen name. For those in the room wishing to testify who have not already noted their desire to testify on the sheet, please wait and provide your contact information which will be added to the sign-in sheet. This sign-in sheet will be used to call forward individuals for testimony and is later used to ensure hearing participants are notified of rulemaking and the agency's response to comments. You'll be called to testify in the order in which I collect your information.

(03:05):

To assist in preparing the record of this public hearing, individuals testifying today should state their name, who they represent, if they're testifying on behalf of others, and whether they support or oppose the proposed rules. The department has received written comments on the proposed rules. For those wishing to provide written comments, please hand them to me or email them to me at rulescoordinator@dol.wa.gov and we will include them in the formal record for response to questions. Copies of these written comments will be added to the rulemaking file.

(03:39):

Now we will hear oral statements. First is Julie Pearson.

Julie Pearson (03:52):

Good morning, guys. My name is Julie Pearson. I am 100% in favor of raising the notarial fee. As a notary public, we play a critical role in society with helping people with their large financial as well as life-changing decisions. We are called sometimes on a 24-hour basis to come help people in emergencies and in time of need. And that is why my vote is going towards the fee today. Thank you.

Ellis Starrett (04:27):

Thank you for your testimony.

(04:32):

Jo-an Mohammed?

Jo-an Mohammed (04:39):

Hi. Good morning, everyone. My name is Jo-an Mohammed. I am a notary public serving the community and helping them with notarizing their signatures and their documents. And I echo what Julie stated, that as notary public, we do help the public with their important documents, to be able to access their critical and personal information and as well as to help their families just to handle their business. And as well as a lot of us notary public also do get continuing education. So I believe I am in favor of the increase, because this will help us educate ourselves to better serve the public. Thank you.

Ellis Starrett (05:42):

Thank you for your testimony. Is there anyone else wishing to testify?

(05:46):

Goodbye. Thank you.

Lauren Gilmore (06:04):

[inaudible 00:06:05].

Ellis Starrett (06:10):

Thank you. Thank you for your comments. The department will prepare a concise, explanatory statement, which will, among other things, summarize all the oral and written comments received regarding the proposed rules and respond to them by category or subject matter. Copies of the concise explanatory statement will be forwarded to all those who have made oral or written comments. This hearing is adjourned.

(06:35):

Can you please stop the recording?