

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 1828 (Chen)
Version: June 8, 2026
Hearing Date: June 16, 2026
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
ID

SUBJECT

County recorder: county clerks: bonds

DIGEST

This bill removes the requirement that the county clerk deliver the required bond for registration as a legal document assistant, unlawful detainer assistant, process server, professional photocopier, and notary public to the county recorder for recording, requires a county clerk to retain the bond for at least six years from its filing, requires a county clerk to provide a registrant a copy of the filed bond, and makes changes to the filing fee that a county clerk may charge a registrant for these services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under California law, legal document assistants (LDAs), unlawful detainer assistants (UDAs), professional photocopiers, process servers who make more than 10 services of process within the state within a year, and notaries public must all register with the county clerk of the county in which they provide their services. As part of these professional's registration, they must obtain a bond to be filed by the county clerk and delivered to the county recorder to be recorded. The county recorder must mail a copy of the recorded bond to the registrant, and a registrant must pay both a recording fee and a filing fee for the bond. To simplify this process, AB 1828 eliminates the requirement that these bonds be delivered to the county recorder and be recorded, specifies that the county clerk must provide a registrant with a copy of the filed bond, requires the county clerk to retain the bond for at least six years from its filing, and makes changes to the fees that may be charged for the filing of the bond.

AB 1828 is sponsored by the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials, and is supported by the California Association of Legal Document Assistants (CALDA) California League of Independent Notaries (CLIN). The Committee has received no timely letters of opposition.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Prescribes various registration, business practices, client disclosures, and education requirements for legal document assistants (LDAs) and unlawful detainer assistants (UDAs). (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6400 et seq.)
- 2) Defines an LDA as a person, corporation, partnership, association, or other entity that employs or contracts with any person, unless otherwise exempt, who provides or assists in providing, for compensation, any self-help service to another person who is self-represented in a legal matter. Prohibits LDAs from providing any kind of advice, explanation, opinion, or recommendation to a client about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, selection of forms, or strategies. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6400(c), (g).)
- 3) Defines a UDA as an individual who, for compensation, renders assistance or advice in the prosecution or defense of an unlawful detainer claim or action. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6400 (a).)
- 4) Requires UDAs and LDAs to be registered with the county clerk in the county in which their principal place of business is located and in any county in which they maintain a branch office. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6402.)
- 5) Requires an application for a certificate of registration for an individual LDA or UDA to be accompanied by a bond for \$25,000, and for corporations of multiple legal document assistants to file a bond ranging between \$25,000 and \$100,000, depending on the size of the firm, which is to be submitted to the county clerk. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6405 (a).)
- 6) Requires the county clerk, upon receipt of the bond filed pursuant to 5), above, to then deliver the bond to the county recorder for recording, and requires a county recorder, upon receiving the bond, to record the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond, and thereafter mail the instrument, unless specified to the contrary, to the person named in the instrument and, if no person is named, to the party leaving it for recording. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6405 (d).)
- 7) Prescribes registration and registration renewal requirements for process servers and professional photocopiers. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 22355, 22457.)
- 8) Defines a process server as any natural person that makes, for compensation or expectation of compensation, more than 10 services of process in California during a calendar year, and any corporation that derives compensation from service of process within California. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22350.)

- 9) Defines a professional photocopier to mean any person who, for compensation, obtains or reproduces documents authorized to be produced under various statutes, and who has access to the information contained in these documents while engaged in performing that activity. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22450.)
- 10) Requires a certificate of registration for a process server to be filed with a county clerk and accompanied by a bond of \$2,000. Requires the county clerk, upon receipt of the bond, to deliver the bond to the county recorder for recording. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22353.)
- 11) Requires a county recorder, upon receiving a bond in accordance with 10), above, to record the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond, and thereafter mail the instrument, unless specified to the contrary, to the person named in the instrument and, if no person is named, to the party leaving it for recording. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22353 (d).)
- 12) Requires a certificate of registration for a professional photocopier to be filed with a county clerk and accompanied by a bond of \$5,000. Requires the county clerk, upon receipt of the bond, to then deliver the bond to the county recorder for recording. (Business and Professions Code Section 22455 (a)(1).)
- 13) Requires a county recorder, upon receiving a bond in accordance with 12), above, to record the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond, and thereafter mail the instrument, unless specified to the contrary, to the person named in the instrument and, if no person is named, to the party leaving it for recording. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22353 (a)(3).)
- 14) Requires, no later than 30 days after the beginning of the term prescribed in the commission to become a notary, every person appointed a notary public to file an official bond and an oath of office in the office of the county clerk of the county within which the person maintains a principal place of business as shown in the application submitted to the Secretary of State. Requires a county clerk to transmit any bond received to the county recorder for recordation. (Gov. Code § 8213 (a).)
- 15) Authorizes a county board of supervisors to increase or decrease a fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied. Permits, if an individual challenges the reasonableness of the fee, the board of supervisors to direct a study be conducted regarding the reasonableness of the fee. (Gov. Code § 54985.)
- 16) Requires an admitted surety insurer be accepted or approved by the court or officer as a surety on a bond if the bond is executed in the name of the surety insurer under

penalty of perjury, or the fact of execution of the bond is duly acknowledged before an officer authorized to take and certify acknowledgements, and either one of the following conditions is met:

- a) A copy of the transcript or record of the unrevoked appointment, power of attorney, bylaws, or other instrument, duly certified by the proper authority, as specified, is filed in the office of the county clerk; or
- b) A copy of a power of attorney is attached to the bond. (Code Civ. Proc. § 995.630.)

17) Provides a three-year statute of limitations for an action against a notary public on the notary public's bond or in the notary public's official capacity except that a cause of action based on malfeasance or misfeasance is not deemed to have accrued until discovery, by the aggrieved party or their agent, but shall be commenced within one year of discovery, and provides a statute of limitations against a notary public on their bond or in their official capacity of six years. (Code Civ. Proc. § 338(f).)

This bill:

- 1) For LDAs, UDAs, process servers, professional photocopiers, and notaries public:
 - a) Removes the requirements that a county clerk, upon filing the bond, deliver the bond forthwith to the county recorder for recording, and removes the requirement that the bond be recorded. Also removes the requirement that a registrant of the aforementioned professional services pay a recording fee.
 - b) Eliminates the seven-dollar fee for filing, canceling, revoking, or withdrawing these bonds, and instead specifies that the amount of the fee shall be determined by Government Code section 54985.
 - c) Requires the county clerk to retain the bond for a minimum of six years from the filing date of the bond.
 - d) Requires the county clerk to provide the registrant one certified copy of the bond on file to serve as proof of compliance with the bonding requirements, and requires that the county clerk provide this copy within a reasonable period following filing, either by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.
- 2) Requires, for LDAs, UDAs, process servers, and professional photocopiers, the county clerk to file with the bond any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond.
- 3) Requires that the required bond be executed in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 995.630.

- 4) Requires the county clerk to retain a notary public's oath of office for ten years, and requires the county clerk to retain the official bond the period of time, starting with filing date, as prescribed in Code of Civil Procedure section 338(f).

COMMENTS

1. Author's statement

According to the author:

AB 1828 will make the process of filing personal bonds, notary oaths, and/or professional registration more seamless by combining the requirements of recording an individual's bond and the oath/registration under the County Clerk. By simplifying and modernizing this process, AB 1828 improves efficiency for both county offices and the public, and helps ensure Californians can more easily file personal bonds, notary oaths, and/or professional registration.

2. Legal document assistants and unlawful detainer assistants

California permits certain professionals to help self-represented individuals with legal forms and certain legal services. Under this law, a legal document assistant (LDA) is a person or company that provides or assists, for compensation, in providing a self-help service to another person who is self-represented in a legal matter. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6400(c).) An LDA is prohibited from providing legal advice, but may prepare legal documents, provide attorney-authored general information, and file and serve documents at the client's direction. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6400(d).) An unlawful detainer assistant (UDA) is an individual who, for compensation, provides assistance or advice in the prosecution or defense of an unlawful detainer claim or action, or an action regarding the eviction of a tenant, including for any bankruptcy action that may affect the unlawful detainer. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6400(a).) Like LDAs, UDAs also cannot provide legal advice to their clients, as they are not attorneys. However, the law provides for LDAs and UDAs to help individuals with basic legal services and assistance when those individuals may be unable to retain an attorney to represent them. This helps pro se litigants access and utilize what are often complicated court processes.

In order to help protect the public from unqualified or unscrupulous LDAs and UDAs, state law requires LDAs and UDAs to comply with various professional requirements and to be registered with the county clerk of the county in which their principal place of business is located and in any other county in which they perform services. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6402.) They must complete specific education, inform clients that they are not lawyers, and enter into contracts for services with the clients they assist. To register, LDAs and UDAs must submit an application with specified information to the county clerk and pay a \$175 registration fee. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6404.) Registration is

generally valid for two years, and the county clerk must maintain a registry of registered LDAs and UDAs, assign a unique number to each registrant, and issue an identification card to a registrant. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6407.)

In addition, each LDA and UDA must obtain a \$25,000 bond, or for a company, specified amounts depending upon the number of LDAs or UDAs working at the company. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6405.) This bond is to be made in favor of the state for the benefit of any person who is damaged as a result of a violation of the LDA or UDA statutes or by fraud, dishonesty, or incompetency by an LDA or UDA. The bond thus helps protect those who utilize LDA or UDA services, with the LDA or UDA obligated to pay back any amount taken against the bond for claims against the LDA or UDA.

The bond must be provided with the LDA or UDA's registration, and the county clerk must file the bond. In addition, current law requires the county clerk to deliver the bond to the county recorder so that the county recorder can record the bond in the county records. Upon its recordation, the county recorder must mail a copy of the recorded bond to the applicant. In lieu of a bond, an LDA or UDA may simply provide the county clerk with the amount that would be required of a bond. The registrant must pay a fee for the recording the bond, as well as a seven dollar fee for the filing of the bond. Requiring the bond to be recorded places it in public county records that are accessible to the public.

3. Process servers, professional copiers, and notaries

State law also requires a number of other professionals to be registered with the county clerk of the county in which they reside or perform services. Process servers, individuals who are paid to serve legal documents upon parties within a legal dispute, that make more than 10 services of process within the state in a year must be registered with the county clerk of any county in which they reside or that is their principal place of business. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22350.) To register, a process server must pay a \$100 fee, a fee to cover the actual costs of processing a live scan, and a fee to cover the actual cost of issuing a registered process server identification card. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22352.) A process server's registration is generally effective for two years. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22354.) The county clerk must assign a number to each registered process server and maintain a register of process servers. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22355.) A process server must obtain and provide to the county clerk a \$2,000 bond.

Another professional that needs to be registered under state law are professional photocopiers. A professional photocopier is an individual who, for compensation, obtains or reproduces documents authorized to be produced for their client from state or local agencies or businesses not part of the litigation for which the documents are requested. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22450.) A professional photocopier must register with the county clerk in the county of their principal place of business, where they reside, and in any county in which they maintain a branch office. In addition, at least one

person involved in the management of a professional photocopier must be a notary public. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22454.) Professional photocopiers must pay a \$175 registration fee, and their registration remains valid for two years. Professional photocopiers also are required to obtain a \$5,000 surety bond, which is meant to protect consumers of professional photocopying services from the mishandling or misuse of the sensitive information which a professional photocopier has access to as part of their services. County clerks must maintain a register of all registered professional photocopiers. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22457.)

Lastly, notaries in California must file with the county clerk of the county in which they maintain their principal place of business as well. Notaries are officials appointed by the Secretary of State to serve as impartial witnesses and to verify individuals' identity when signing or affirming documents or declarations. To be authorized as a notary, an individual must complete a course of study and pass an examination conducted by the Secretary of State, and must take an oath. That oath must be filed with the county clerk along with a \$15,000 bond. (Gov. Code §§ 8212-8213.)

Like the requirements for LDAs and UDAs, the statutes governing process servers, professional photocopiers, and public notaries require that the county clerk to, upon filing the bond, also deliver the bond to the county recorder for recording. The county recorder must then record the bond, and mail a copy of the recorded bond to the person named in the bond or the party the providing the bond for recording.

4. AB 1828 eliminates the requirement that the required bonds for registered professionals be recorded

The author's office argues that the process of requiring these various bonds to be transmitted to the county recorder and recorded is unnecessary and inefficient. It requires two steps for each bond and registration: one completed by the county clerk, and another by the county recorder. This, the author argues, makes the bond and registration requirements more cumbersome, and increases costs. In addition, for a professional navigating this system requiring this process, having to both file the bond and have it recorded means additional steps for the professional. While some counties, like Los Angeles and Yolo counties, include the services of the county clerk and the county recorder within the same office, others do not.

To simplify this process, AB 1828 eliminates the requirement that the county clerk provide the bond to the county recorder and that the county recorder record it. It would clarify that the bond must be executed in accordance with current law that requires specific documents to be included with the bond, and that it be executed under penalty of perjury or notarized. It also replaces the requirement that the county recorder mail a copy of the bond to the person named in the bond or the person requesting it with a requirement that the county clerk provide the registrant a certified copy of the filed bond to serve as official proof of compliance with the bond requirements. It permits this

copy to be provided within a reasonable period following the filing by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.

There are notable differences between the process of a county clerk filing a bond and a county recorder recording that bond. Recorded documents are publicly available and accessible in an index of recorded documents, which is an important aspect of the recordation process. In the context of real property, it permits individuals to more easily determine interests in real property and the priority of those interests. Recorded documents also generally exist in the county's records permanently. While this makes sense in the context of interests in real property where determining proper title to the property is important, it is less clear why records of bonds for professionals' services must be so permanently recorded. However, having proof of a professional's bond publicly available is also important for ensuring that the public can be sure that the professional they are hiring has the proper protection to shield the customer should the professional fail their professional duties. Nonetheless, these bonds are still filed with the county clerk, and the county clerk must maintain a public registry of the relevant professional registrations.

To ensure that the record of the bond is maintained for a relevant period of time, AB 1828 requires that the county clerk retain the bond for at least six years from its filing date. While this means that a county clerk would not be required to maintain records of the bonds permanently as they currently are as recorded documents, the timeline is designed to ensure they are still available for the duration of any relevant period. This six-year period is well more than relevant statutes of limitation that generally would apply to any claim against a professional's bond, as the statute of limitations for a breach of a written contract is four years from the breach (Code Civ. Proc. § 337), the statute of limitations for fraud or misrepresentation is four years from the date of the injury or discovery of the fraud (Code Civ. Proc. § 338(d)), and the statute of limitations for general statutory liabilities is three years (Code Civ. Proc. § 338(a)). In addition, the statute of limitations for a claim against a notary public's bond is three years, and six years in some circumstances. (Code Civ. Proc. § 338(e).) Given that the relevant professionals' registration lasts for two-year increments, the statute of limitations will have run by the time the six-year period from the filing of the bond expires. Specifically for notary publics, the bill ties this retention period to the statute of limitations statute, thus tying it to the six year timeline for some claims on the notary public's bond.

5. AB 1828 permits county clerks to charge a filing fee in an amount reasonably necessary to cover the expenses of filing the bond

As it eliminates the requirement that the bond be recorded, AB 1828 eliminates the requirement that the registrant pay a recording fee. In addition, AB 1828 eliminates the current seven dollar amount of the fee for filing, cancelling, revoking, or withdrawing a bond, and instead specifies that the amount of the fee is determined by existing law. That law permits the county board of supervisors to determine the amount of

authorized fees that is reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged, and permits the board of supervisors to request a study to determine whether the fee is reasonable if an individual disputes the reasonableness of the fee. (Gov. Code § 54985.)

6. Amendments

The author has agreed to amendments that will change the bill's provisions related to the amount of time that a county clerk must retain a bond related to a notary public. The amendments will remove the bill's reference to the period of time contained in the relevant statute of limitations for a claim against a notary public or their bond, and instead will state that the county clerk must retain the bond for ten years from the date of filing of the bond. A full mock-up of these amendments is attached at the end of this analysis.

SUPPORT

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (sponsor)
California Association of Legal Document Assistants (CALDA)
California League of Independent Notaries (CLIN)

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending Legislation:

AB 1977 (Irwin, 2026) requires a notary public to satisfactorily complete a written examination prescribed by the Secretary of State, adjusts the fee for issuing a permit, and makes various other changes to the statutes governing notaries public. AB 1977 is currently pending before this Committee.

AB 1597 (Castillo, 2026) increases specified limits of fees that a notary public can charge for certain services. AB 1597 is currently pending before this Committee.

Prior Legislation:

AB 747 (Kalra, Ch. 563, Stats. 2025) requires that the register of process servers maintained by the county clerk be publicly available, defines "reasonable diligence" for the purposes of requirements on serving documents, and authorizes a party that did not receive proper notice to bring a motion to set aside or vacate a default judgment or other similar motions.

AB 285 (Gallagher, Ch. 295, Stats. 2015) required a legal document assistant or unlawful detainer assistant to complete 15 hours of continuing education to renew their registration, and removes requirements and references to obtain secondary registration for any other county other than the county in which they maintain their principal place of business in which they perform services.

PRIOR VOTES:

Assembly Floor (Ayes 73, Noes 0)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 13, Noes 0)

Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 12, Noes 0)

Mock-up for Proposed Amendments to 2025-2026 AB-1828 (Chen)

(Amendments may be subject to technical changes required by Legislative Counsel)

Mock-up based on Version Number 97 - Amended Senate 6/8/26

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 6405 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

6405. (a) (1) An application for a certificate of registration by an individual shall be accompanied by a bond of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) executed by a corporate surety qualified to do business in this state. The bond shall be conditioned upon compliance with this chapter and executed in accordance with Section 995.630 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The total aggregate liability on the bond shall be limited to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(2) An application for a certificate of registration by a partnership or corporation shall be accompanied by a bond executed by a corporate surety qualified to do business in this state and conditioned upon compliance with this chapter in the following amount, based on the total number of legal document assistants and unlawful detainer assistants employed by the partnership or corporation:

(A) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for one to four assistants.

(B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for five to nine assistants.

(C) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for 10 or more assistants. An application for a certificate of registration by a person employed by a partnership or corporation shall be accompanied by a bond of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) only if the partnership or corporation has not posted a bond in the amount required by this subdivision.

(3) If a partnership or corporation increases the number of assistants it employs above the number stated in its application for a certificate of registration, the partnership or corporation shall promptly increase the bond to the applicable amount in subparagraphs (B) or (C) of paragraph (2) based on the actual number of assistants it employs, and shall promptly submit the increased bond to the county clerk.

(4) The bond may be terminated pursuant to Section 995.440 of, and Article 13 (commencing with Section 996.310) of Chapter 2 of Title 14 of Part 2 of, the Code of Civil Procedure.

(b) The fee for filing, canceling, revoking, or withdrawing the bond is determined by Section 54985 of the Government Code.

(c) The county clerk shall file the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond.

(d) In lieu of the bond required by subdivision (a), a registrant may deposit the amount required by subdivision (a) in cash with the county clerk.

(e) If the certificate is revoked, the bond or cash deposit shall be returned to the bonding party or depositor subject to subdivision (f) and the right of a person to recover against the bond or cash deposit under Section 6412.

(f) The county clerk may retain a cash deposit until the expiration of three years from the date the registrant has ceased to do business, or three years from the expiration or revocation date of the registration, in order to ensure there are no outstanding claims against the deposit. A judge may order the return of the deposit prior to the expiration of three years upon evidence satisfactory to the judge that there are no outstanding claims against the deposit.

(g) The bond required by this section shall be in favor of the State of California for the benefit of any person who is damaged as a result of the violation of this chapter or by the fraud, dishonesty, or incompetency of an individual, partnership, or corporation registered under this chapter. The bond required by this section shall also indicate the name of the county in which it will be filed.

(h) The county clerk shall retain the bond for a minimum of six years from the filing date.

(i) The county clerk shall provide to the registrant one certified copy of the bond on file, which shall serve as official proof of compliance with the bonding requirements of this section. The certified copy shall be provided to the registrant, within a reasonable period following filing, either by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.

SEC. 2. Section 22353 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

22353. (a) A certificate of registration shall be accompanied by a bond of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), executed by an admitted surety insurer and conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of this chapter and all laws governing the service of process in this state. The bond shall be executed in accordance with Section 995.630 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The total aggregate liability on the bond is limited to two thousand dollars (\$2,000). As an alternative to the bond, the registrant may deposit with the clerk, cash or a money order in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(b) The fee for filing, canceling, revoking, or withdrawing the bond is determined by Section 54985 of the Government Code.

(c) The county clerk shall file the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond.

(d) The county clerk shall retain the bond for a minimum of six years from the filing date.

(e) The county clerk shall provide to the registrant one certified copy of the bond on file, which shall serve as official proof of compliance with the bonding requirements of this section. The certified copy shall be provided to the registrant, within a reasonable period following filing, either by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.

SEC. 3. Section 22455 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

22455. (a) A certificate of registration shall be accompanied by a bond of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) which is executed by a corporate surety qualified to do business in this state and conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of this chapter and all laws governing the transmittal of confidential documentary information under the code sections specified in Section 22450. The bond shall be executed in accordance with Section 995.630 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The total aggregate liability on the bond shall be limited to five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The bond may be terminated pursuant to the provisions of Section 995.440 and Article 13 (commencing with Section 996.310) of Chapter 2 of Title 14 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(1) The fee for filing, canceling, revoking, or withdrawing the bond is determined by Section 54985 of the Government Code.

(2) The county clerk shall file the bond and any notice of cancellation, revocation, or withdrawal of the bond.

(b) In lieu of the bond required by subdivision (a), a registrant may deposit five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in cash with the county clerk.

(c) If the certificate is revoked, the bond or cash deposit shall be returned to the bonding party or depositor subject to the provisions of subdivision (d) and the right of a person to recover against the bond or cash deposit under Section 22459.

(d) The county clerk may retain a cash deposit until the expiration of three years from the date the registrant has ceased to do business, or three years from the expiration or revocation date of the registration, in order to ensure there are no outstanding claims against the deposit. A judge of a superior court may order the return of the deposit prior to the expiration of three years upon evidence satisfactory to the judge that there are no outstanding claims against the deposit.

(e) The county clerk shall retain the bond for a minimum of six years from the filing date.

(f) The county clerk shall provide to the registrant one certified copy of the bond on file, which shall serve as official proof of compliance with the bonding requirements of this section. The certified copy shall be provided to the registrant, within a reasonable period following filing, either by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.

SEC. 4. Section 8213 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8213. (a) No later than 30 days after the beginning of the term prescribed in the commission, every person appointed a notary public shall file an official bond and an oath of office in the office of the county clerk of the county within which the person maintains a principal place of business as shown in the application submitted to the Secretary of State, and the commission shall not take effect unless this is done within the 30-day period. The official bond shall be executed in accordance with Section 995.630 of the Code of Civil Procedure. A person appointed to be a notary public shall take and subscribe the oath of office either in the office of that county clerk or before another notary public in that county. If the oath of office is taken and subscribed before the county clerk, the person appointed to be a notary public shall present an identification document meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3), or of subparagraph (A) or (E) or paragraph (4), of subdivision (b) of Section 1185 of the Civil Code to the county clerk as satisfactory evidence of identity. If the oath of office is taken and subscribed before a notary public, the oath and bond may be filed with the county clerk by certified mail or any other means of physical delivery that provides a receipt. Upon the filing of the oath and bond, the county clerk shall immediately transmit to the Secretary of State a certificate setting forth the fact of the filing and containing a copy of the official oath, personally signed by the notary public in the form set forth in the commission. The county clerk shall retain the oath of office for 10 years following the expiration of the term of the commission for which the oath was taken, after which the oath may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of. The copy of the oath, personally signed by the notary public, on file with the Secretary of State may at any time be read in evidence with like effect as the original oath, without further proof.

(b) If a notary public transfers the principal place of business from one county to another, the notary public may file a new oath of office and bond, or a duplicate of the original bond with the county clerk to which the principal place of business was transferred. The official bond shall be executed in accordance with Section 995.630 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If the notary public elects to make a new filing, the notary public shall, within 30 days of the filing, obtain an official seal which shall include the name of the county to which the notary public has transferred. In a case where the notary public elects to make a new filing, the same filing fees are applicable as in the case of the original filing of the bond.

(c) If a notary public submits an application for a name change to the Secretary of State, the notary public shall, within 30 days from the date an amended commission is issued, file a new oath of office and an amendment to the bond with the county clerk in which the principal place of business is located. The amended commission with the name change shall not take effect unless the filing is completed within the 30-day period. The amended commission with the name change takes effect the date the oath and amendment to the bond is filed with the county clerk. If the principal place of business address was changed in the application for name change, either a new or duplicate of the original bond shall be filed with the county clerk with the amendment to the bond. The notary public shall, within 30 days of the filing, obtain an official seal that includes the name of the notary public and the name of the county to which the notary public has transferred, if applicable.

(d) The fee for filing the bond is determined by Section 54985.

(e) The county clerk shall retain the official bond for ten years from the date of filing. ~~the period of time, starting with the filing date, as prescribed in subdivision (f) of Section 338 of the Code of Civil Procedure.~~

(f) The county clerk shall provide to the registrant one certified copy of the bond on file, which shall serve as official proof of compliance with the bonding requirements of this section. The certified copy shall be provided to the registrant, within a reasonable period following filing, either by mail or by another accessible method established by the county clerk.

SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.