



June 23, 2020

We Tried Again – No Emergency RON Powers

The New Mexico Legislature is meeting in special session and it appears that the Association's efforts to try to get the Governor the needed authority to enact Remote Online Notarization (RON) on an emergency basis has failed to pass. There were two bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, each of which would have expressly granted the Governor the emergency power to eliminate the physical presence requirement of the New Mexico Notarial Act. Through our lobbyist, the Association had worked with the bills' sponsors to try to ensure that the language of the bills was sufficient to allow the insurability of RON acknowledged documents if the Governor exercised the emergency powers. While the Senate bill advanced, there was substantial opposition in the House to giving the Governor additional powers. With the Legislature now adjourned, the RON bills are dead.

We are disappointed that RON will now have to wait until the 2021 regular session, but we remain hopeful that we can work with certain legislators and other stakeholders and be ready for the 2021 session with a RON bill that addresses everyone's concerns and which will enable our industry to be ready for the future, no matter what it brings.

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