



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

---

## Register of Deeds Tonya Buckingham

P.O. Box 3326, Wichita, KS 67201-3326 - [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org) - TEL: 316-660-9400 - FAX: 316-383-8066

February 9, 2017

To The Kansas Senate Finance Committee:

I am a proponent of SB-143, An act concerning Notaries Public.

The office of the Register of Deeds is charged with verifying that documents meet certain basic requirements, including Notarial Acts pursuant to K.S.A. 53-501 et seq. Errors discovered in the notary section of documents cause frequent delays in recording. In fact, notary discrepancies are among the top 3 reasons for rejection in the Sedgwick County Register of Deeds' office. Besides recording offices, delays affect the buyer and seller, and can sometimes be the cause of title-chain issues. The office has witnessed many occasions when a citizen spends their valuable time going back-and-forth between the notary and the recording office before all errors have been corrected. This places an unnecessary burden on residents who must assume responsibility of tracking down notaries who have not correctly performed their statutory duties the first time.

Past conversations with various recording parties, citizens, and notaries themselves have revealed that many notaries do not realize the significance of their role in the process of property ownership and are often not fully aware of their statutory duties. I believe the aforementioned bill is necessary in order to alleviate the burden created by incorrect and incomplete notarizations.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tonya Buckingham".

Tonya Buckingham,

Sedgwick County Register of Deeds