

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-294 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING TRADE NAMES, FRAUDULENT FILINGS, IMPERMISSIBLE BUSINESS SOLICITATIONS, DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATIONS, THE ISSUANCE OF AN APOSTILLE AND FEES CHARGED

Title: BY A NOTARY.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill revises the processes for application and issuance of trade names, provides the Secretary of the State with additional authority regarding fraudulent filings, deceptive business solicitations, and dissolution of corporations, revises the provisions of an apostille, and increases notary fees. These changes are a result of growing fraudulent business and a need to update notary fees to match modern costs.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language implements recommendations from the Office of the Secretary of the State regarding trade names.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of the State: Secretary Thomas submitted testimony proposing several suggestions to this bill. She also offered positive feedback for several sections.

William Tong, Connecticut Attorney General: Attorney General Tong submitted testimony in support of this bill, specifically Section 7, which addresses government imposter scams. He detailed the various scams occurring in our state and praises the proposed bill for helping consumers to differentiate between such scams and legitimate offers and government notices.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Lisa Dalton, President, Connecticut Town Clerks Association Inc.: President Dalton submitted testimony in favor of the bill, citing their continued collaboration with the Secretary of the State to modernize, streamline and improve trade name processes. She wrote that updates to the trade name process as outlined in this bill will provide structure and uniformity. She also wrote that this bill strengthens the ability of SOTS to fight fraudulent business filings and emphasized how critical these safeguards are. She concludes with support of the increase of maximum fees charged by notaries, citing how important notaries are in these processes.

Teresa Browne-Parris, Notary Public, Connecticut Notary On-Demand: Ms. Browne-Parris submitted testimony in support of this bill. She supports raising the maximum fee a notary may charge from \$5 to \$10, writing that the increase reflects the realities of modern service delivery. However, she included that she does not support increasing the fee for apostille and authentication from \$40 to \$50.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Teresa Grant, Owner, AJ Notary Services CT, LLC: Ms. Grant submitted testimony in opposition of the bill, specifically the section that raises the apostille fee from \$40 to \$50. She wrote that because apostilles are often required in certain transactions, this increase in fee will place an additional burden on many residents, especially as many process multiple documents at once.

Melissa Singleton, Owner and Founder, Unique Mobile Notary Services: Ms. Singleton submitted testimony that she does not support the increase of apostille and authentication fees from \$40 to \$50.

Reported by: Catherine M. Thomas

Date: April 10, 2026