

who either (1) is a member of the armed forces of the United States, or (2) is serving as a merchant seaman outside the limits of the United States included within the 48 states and the District of Columbia; or (3) is outside said limits by permission, assignment or direction of any department or official of the United States Government, in connection with any activity pertaining to the prosecution of any war in which the United States is then engaged.

(b) Such acknowledgment of instruments, attestation of documents, administration of oaths and affirmations, execution of depositions and affidavits, and performance of other notarial acts, heretofore or hereafter made or taken, are hereby declared legal, valid and binding, and instruments and documents so acknowledged, authenticated, or sworn to shall be admissible in evidence and eligible to record in this State under the same circumstances, and with the same force and effect as if such acknowledgment, attestation, oath, affirmation, deposition, affidavit, or other notarial act, had been made or taken within this State before or by a duly qualified officer or official as otherwise provided by law.

(c) In the taking of acknowledgments and the performing of other notarial acts requiring certification, a certificate endorsed upon or attached to the instrument or document, which shows the date of the notarial act and which states, in substance, that the person appearing before the officer acknowledged the instrument as his act or made or signed the instrument or document under oath, shall be sufficient for all intents and purposes. The instrument or document shall not be rendered invalid by the failure to state the place of execution or acknowledgment.

(d) If the signature, rank, and branch of service or subdivision thereof, of any such commissioned officer appear upon such instrument or document or certificate, no further proof of the authority of such officer so to act shall be required and such action by such commissioned officer shall be prima facie evidence that the person making such oath or acknowledgment is within the purview of this section.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety, and having been passed by a ye and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all of the members elected to each of the two houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved February 26, 1947.