

to follow immediately after Section 11 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Facsimile Signatures of Public Officials", enacting the Uniform Facsimile Signatures of Public Officials Act, and relating generally to the use of facsimile signatures AND FACSIMILE SEALS on certain certificates of indebtedness by public officials in this State, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE MISUSE THEREOF.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 12 to 17, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 31 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Debt—Public", to follow immediately after Section 11 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Facsimile Signatures of Public Officials", all to read as follows:

*Facsimile Signatures of Public Officials*

12. *Definitions. As used in this sub-title.*

(a) *"Public Security" means a bond, note, certificate of indebtedness, or other obligation for the payment of money, issued by this State or by any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or by any of its political subdivisions.*

(b) *"Instrument of Payment" means a check, draft, warrant, or order for the payment, delivery, or transfer of funds.*

(c) *"Authorized Officer" means any official of this State or any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or any of its political subdivisions whose signature to a public security or instrument of payment is required or permitted.*

(d) *"Facsimile Signature" means a reproduction by engraving, imprinting, stamping, or other means of the manual signature of an authorized officer.*

13. *Facsimile Signature. Any authorized officer, after filing with the Secretary of State his manual signature certified by him under oath, may execute or cause to be executed with a facsimile signature in lieu of his manual signature:*

(a) *Any public security, provided that at least one signature required or permitted to be placed thereon shall be manually subscribed, and*

(b) *Any instrument of payment.*

*Upon compliance with this sub-title by the authorized officer, his facsimile signature has the same legal effect as his manual signature.*

14. *Use of Facsimile Seal. When the seal of this State or any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or of any of its political subdivisions is required in the execution of a public security or instrument of payment, the authorized officer may cause the seal to be printed, engraved, stamped or otherwise placed in facsimile thereon. The facsimile seal has the same legal effect as the impression of the seal.*

15. *Violation and Penalty. Any person who with intent to defraud uses on a public security or an instrument of payment:*

(a) *A facsimile signature, or any reproduction of it, of any authorized officer, or*