



September 15, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street
Suite 9000
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

BSA | the Software Alliance is the leading advocate for the global software industry. Our members are enterprise software companies that create the business-to-business technologies that other businesses use. For example, BSA members provide transforming tools including cloud storage services, customer relationship management software, human resource management programs, identity management services, and collaboration software. Privacy and security protections are fundamental parts of BSA members' processes. Furthermore, their business models do not depend on monetizing users' data.

We strongly encourage policymakers to take every opportunity to modernize all kinds of digital infrastructure through cloud solutions and technology solutions like the ones below. These tools can ease processes for citizens, shorten timelines for design and construction projects, and secure the state's data.

We recommend your signature on SB 696, related to Remote Online Notary, to ensure California remains focused on highly resilient, accessible, and protected resources and infrastructure. Specifically, being able to remotely notarize documents with electronic signatures is essential for moving the economy forward in addition to modernizing state government services. It is used for everything from deeds, affidavits, powers of attorney, living trusts, and advance health care directives, among others. When allowed by state law, remote online notarization (RON) provides an alternative to traditional in-person notarization for all consumers. It is especially beneficial to active-duty military stationed overseas, child and elder caregivers, and the sick or elderly.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Manager, State Advocacy