



June 9, 2021

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Section 4 of S 2467, An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency**

Dear Chairman Rodrigues:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Bankers Association's (MBA) more than 130 commercial, savings and cooperative banks and federal savings institution members with 72,000 employees located throughout the Commonwealth and New England, we are writing to express our views on Section 4 of S 2467, An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency.

As we noted in our May 19 letter regarding several amendments considered during the Senate's budget debate (S 3), the Association believes there is a need for a more modern, electronic-based system to facilitate the remote notarization of documents in the Commonwealth. However, we remain concerned that Section 4 does not sufficiently update Massachusetts law to address advances in the lending marketplace and instead simply extends what was originally proposed as a temporary emergency measure implemented in the early days of the pandemic.

Given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the Commonwealth's response and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency we support the **one-time extension** to chapter 21 of the acts of 2020 until December 15, 2021, which is contained in Section 4 of S 2467. This provision will help facilitate a smoother transition between the temporary emergency language and what we hope is a new, more comprehensive RON statute. We look forward to working with you, your colleagues and all the other stakeholders on this issue in the coming months.

Thank you for considering our views S 2467. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon K. Skarin', written over a horizontal line.

Jon K. Skarin  
Executive Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad S. Papalardo', written over a horizontal line.

Brad S. Papalardo, Esq.  
Vice President, Government Affairs &  
Counsel