

Introduced by

Senator Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-18 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to creation of a document preservation fund; to amend and reenact  
3 section 11-18-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to fees charged by the register of  
4 deeds; and to provide an expiration date.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 11-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Document preservation fund.** The county treasurer shall establish a document  
9 preservation fund to receive the portion of the recording fees authorized by section 11-18-05.  
10 The revenue in this fund may be used only for contracting for and purchasing equipment and  
11 software for a document preservation, storage, and retrieval system; training employees to  
12 operate the system; maintaining and updating the system; and contracting for the offsite  
13 storage of microfilm or electronic duplicates of documents for the county register of deeds'  
14 office.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-18-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
16 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **11-18-05. Fees of register of deeds.** The register of deeds shall charge and collect  
18 the following fees:

- 19 1. For recording an instrument affecting title to real estate:
- 20 a. Deeds, mortgages, and all other instruments not specifically provided for in  
21 this subsection, seven dollars for the first page and three dollars for each  
22 additional page. In addition, for all documents recorded under this section  
23 that list more than five sections of land, a fee of one dollar for each additional  
24 section listed which is to be recorded in the tract index.

- (1) "Page" means one side of a single legal size sheet of paper not exceeding eight and one-half inches [21.59 centimeters] in width and fourteen inches [35.56 centimeters] in length.
    - (2) The printed, written, or typed words must be considered legible by the register of deeds before the page will be accepted for recording.
    - (3) Each real estate instrument must have a legal description considered to be adequate by the register of deeds before such instrument will be accepted for recording.
    - (4) A space of at least four inches by three and one-half inches [10.16 by 8.89 centimeters] square must be provided on the first or last page of each instrument for the register of deeds' recording information. If recording information can only be placed on the reverse side of an instrument, an additional page charge must be levied.
  - b. Instruments satisfying, releasing, assigning, subordinating, continuing, amending, or extending more than one instrument previously recorded in the county in which recording is requested, seven dollars for the first page and three dollars for each additional page plus three dollars for each such additional document number or book and page. In addition, for all documents recorded under this section which list more than five separate sections of land, a fee of one dollar for each additional section listed which is to be recorded in the tract index.
  - c. Plats, irregular tracts, or annexations, ten dollars for one lot plus ten cents for each additional lot, with the exception of auditor's lots which must be a single charge of seven dollars.
  - d. All instruments presented for recording after June 30, 2001, must contain a one-inch [2.54-centimeter] top, bottom, or side margin on each page of the instrument for the placement of computerized recording labels. An instrument that does not conform to this margin requirement may be recorded upon payment of an additional fee of ~~two~~ ten dollars.
2. For filing any non-central indexing system instrument, ~~five~~ ten dollars.

3. For making certified copies of any recorded instrument or filed non-central indexing system instrument, the charge is five dollars for the first page and two dollars for each additional page. For making a noncertified copy of any recorded instrument or filed non-central indexing system instrument, a fee of not more than one dollar per instrument page.

~~4. For making a copy of any filed non-central indexing system instrument, one dollar for each five pages or portion thereof. For making a certified copy of any non-central indexing system filed instrument, five dollars plus one dollar for each additional five pages or portion thereof.~~

5. For filing, indexing, making, or completing any statement, abstract, or certificate under the Uniform Commercial Code central filing data base, the computerized central notice system or the computerized statutory liens data base, for receiving printouts, and for other services provided through the computerized system, the fee is the same as that provided in sections 41-09-42 and 41-09-43, as applicable.

~~6.~~ 5. The register of deeds may establish procedures for providing access for duplicating records under the register of deeds' control. Such records include paper, photostat, microfilm, microfiche, and electronic or computer generated instruments created by governmental employees.

~~7.~~ 6. Duplicate register of deeds' records stored off-site as a security measure are not accessible for reproduction.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 11-18-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. For recording an instrument affecting title to real estate:

- a. Deeds, mortgages, and all other instruments not specifically provided for in this subsection, ~~seven~~ ten dollars for the first page and three dollars for each additional page. In addition, for all documents recorded under this section that list more than five sections of land, a fee of one dollar for each additional section listed which is to be recorded in the tract index. Three dollars of the fee collected for the first page of each instrument recorded under this subdivision must be placed in the document preservation fund.

- (1) "Page" means one side of a single legal size sheet of paper not exceeding eight and one-half inches [21.59 centimeters] in width and fourteen inches [35.56 centimeters] in length.
  - (2) The printed, written, or typed words must be considered legible by the register of deeds before the page will be accepted for recording.
  - (3) Each real estate instrument must have a legal description considered to be adequate by the register of deeds before such instrument will be accepted for recording.
  - (4) A space of at least four inches by three and one-half inches [10.16 by 8.89 centimeters] square must be provided on the first or last page of each instrument for the register of deeds' recording information. If recording information can only be placed on the reverse side of an instrument, an additional page charge must be levied.
- b. Instruments satisfying, releasing, assigning, subordinating, continuing, amending, or extending more than one instrument previously recorded in the county in which recording is requested, ~~seven~~ ten dollars for the first page and three dollars for each additional page plus three dollars for each such additional document number or book and page. In addition, for all documents recorded under this section which list more than five separate sections of land, a fee of one dollar for each additional section listed which is to be recorded in the tract index. Three dollars of the fee collected for the first page of each instrument recorded under this subdivision must be placed in the document preservation fund.
- c. Plats, irregular tracts, or annexations, ten dollars for one lot plus ten cents for each additional lot, with the exception of auditor's lots which must be a single charge of seven dollars.
- d. All instruments presented for recording after June 30, 2001, must contain a one-inch [2.54-centimeter] top, bottom, or side margin on each page of the instrument for the placement of computerized recording labels. An instrument that does not conform to this margin requirement may be recorded upon payment of an additional fee of two dollars.

1           **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 1 and 3 of this Act are effective through  
2   June 30, 2005, and after that date are ineffective.