

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2024
(Legislative Council)
(Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to county recorder reports to the legislative council regarding use of document preservation funds; to amend and reenact sections 11-18-05 and 11-18-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the expiration of the document preservation fund; and to provide an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 11-18-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11-18-05. (~~Effective through June 30, 2005~~) Fees of recorder. The recorder shall charge and collect the following fees:

1. For recording an instrument affecting title to real estate:
 - a. Deeds, mortgages, and all other instruments not specifically provided for in this subsection, 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 recorder before the page will be accepted for recording.
 - (3) Each real estate instrument must have a legal description considered to be adequate by the recorder 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 recorder's 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, 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 ten dollars.
2. For filing any non-central indexing system instrument, 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 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 41-09-96 and 54-09-11.
 5. The recorder may establish procedures for providing access for duplicating records under the recorder's control. Such records include paper, photostat, microfilm, microfiche, and electronic or computer-generated instruments created by governmental employees.
 6. Duplicate recorders' records stored offsite as a security measure are not accessible for reproduction.

~~(Effective after June 30, 2005) Fees of recorder.~~ The recorder shall charge and collect the following fees:

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 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.~~
 - (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 recorder before the page will be accepted for recording.~~
 - (3) ~~Each real estate instrument must have a legal description considered to be adequate by the recorder 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 recorder's 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.~~

- ~~e. 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 ten dollars.~~
- ~~2. For filing any non-central indexing system instrument, 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 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 41-09-06 and 54-09-11.~~
- ~~5. The recorder may establish procedures for providing access for duplicating records under the recorder's control. Such records include paper, photostat, microfilm, microfiche, and electronic or computer-generated instruments created by governmental employees.~~
- ~~6. Duplicate recorders' records stored offsite as a security measure are not accessible for reproduction.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 11-18-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11-18-22. (~~Effective through June 30, 2005~~) Document preservation fund. The county treasurer shall establish a document preservation fund to receive the portion of the recording fees authorized by section 11-18-05. The revenue in this fund may be used only for contracting for and purchasing equipment and software for a document preservation, storage, and retrieval system; training employees to operate the system; maintaining and updating the system; and contracting for the offsite storage of microfilm or electronic duplicates of documents for the county recorder's office.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 11-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Document preservation fund - Recorder reporting requirement to legislative council. Before March first of each even-numbered year, each recorder shall prepare a report that specifies how the county used the county's document preservation funds during the preceding two fiscal years; how the county's use of the document preservation funds has furthered the goal of document preservation; and the county's general strategic plans for document preservation. The county reports must be submitted to the North Dakota association of counties for compilation and submittal to the legislative council before April first of each even-numbered year.

SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE. Section 3 of this Act is effective through July 31, 2009, and after that date is ineffective.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2024.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State