

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1355**

Introduced by

Representatives Beadle, Boehning, Klemin

Senators Sitte, Sorvaag

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 54-09-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to certificates and certified copies issued by the secretary of state; and to amend and  
3 reenact sections 10-34-09, 43-07-13, 54-09-04, and 54-09-07 of the North Dakota Century  
4 Code, relating to the fees collected by the secretary of state from real estate investment trusts,  
5 fees collected by the secretary of state for certified copies, fees charged and collected by the  
6 secretary of state, and service of process on the secretary of state.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-34-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **10-34-09. Fees.**

11 The secretary of state shall charge and collect the following fees with respect to real estate  
12 investment trusts:

- 13 1. Filing a registration of a real estate investment trust, one hundred ten dollars.
- 14 2. Filing any amendment changing the registered agent or registered office, the fee  
15 provided in section 10-01.1-03.
- 16 3. Filing a renewal or amendment of registration of a real estate investment trust, forty  
17 dollars.
- 18 4. Issuing a certificate of good standing, ~~twenty-five~~fifteen dollars.
- 19 5. Furnishing a certified copy of any record, instrument, or paper relating to a real estate  
20 investment trust, the fee provided in section 54-09-04 for copying a record and fifteen  
21 dollars for the certificate and affixing the seal thereto.

22 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-07-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-07-13. Records and certified copies thereof.**

The registrar shall maintain in the registrar's office, open to public inspection during office hours, a complete indexed record of all applications, licenses, certificates of renewal, revocations, and other information maintained on contractors. The registrar may dispose of an inactive contractor file after two years if no attempts have been made to apply for a new license or renew the license. Disposal of the license will proceed according to the provisions of chapter 54-46. Before disposal and upon request, the registrar shall furnish a certified copy of any information maintained upon receipt of the ~~sum of ten dollars~~ fees prescribed in section 54-09-04. Such certified copy must be received in all courts and elsewhere as prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein. Any certificate or certified copy issued by the secretary of state under this section has the same force and effect as provided in section 54-09-02.1.

**SECTION 3.** Section 54-09-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**54-09-02.1. Secretary of state - Certificates and certified copies to be received in evidence.**

1. All certificates issued by the secretary of state and all copies of records filed in accordance with this chapter or any other chapter, when certified by the secretary of state, ~~must~~may be taken and received in all courts, public offices, and official bodies as prima facie evidence of the facts stated.
2. A certificate by the secretary of state under the great seal of this state, as to the existence or nonexistence of the facts relating to records filed by the secretary in accordance with this chapter or any other chapter which would not appear from a certified copy of any of the foregoing records or certificates, ~~must~~may be taken and received in all courts, public offices, and official bodies as prima facie evidence of the existence or nonexistence of the facts stated.
3. Any certificate or certified copy issued by the secretary of state under this section may be created and disseminated as an electronic record with the same force and effect as if produced in a paper form.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-09-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **54-09-04. Fees.**

2       The secretary of state, ~~unless otherwise provided by law~~, shall charge and collect the  
3 following fees:

4       1. For a copy of any law, resolution, record, or other document or paper on file in the  
5 secretary of state's office, fifty cents per page.

6       2. ~~For~~Unless otherwise provided by law, for affixing the signature of the secretary of  
7 state, certificate, or seal, or combination thereof to any document, ten dollars.

8       3. For filing a certificate of appointment of attorney, five dollars.

9       4. For searching records and archives of the state, five dollars. For the purposes of this  
10 section, a search of records conducted by the secretary of state for which a fee must  
11 be collected includes the following:

12       a. A search of a filed document that is active or archived, an archived index, or an  
13 index of business name changes to identify specific information to satisfy a  
14 request;

15       b. A search of any record for which written verification of the facts of the search is  
16 required; and

17       c. For every search of records when the request for the search is contained in a list  
18 compiled by the requester.

19       The secretary of state may provide, at no charge, information from publications or  
20 reference materials published or maintained by the secretary of state and verbal  
21 confirmation of any element of information maintained in a computer data base.

22       5. For filing any paper not otherwise provided for, ten dollars.

23       6. ~~For filing utility property transfers, five dollars, and issuing a certificate of filing, five-~~  
24 ~~dollars.~~

25       7. For filing any process, notice, or demand for service, the fee provided in section  
26 10-01.1-03.

27       8. ~~7.~~ For preparing any listing or compilation of any information recorded or filed in the  
28 office of the secretary of state, thirty-five dollars plus the actual cost for assembling  
29 and providing the information on the medium requested.

30       An individual required to file an oath of office with the secretary of state may not be charged  
31 for filing the oath of office, nor may a state or county officer be charged for filing any document

1 with the secretary of state when acting in the officer's official capacity. All fees when collected  
2 must be paid by the secretary of state into the state treasury at the end of each month and  
3 placed to the credit of the state. Unless otherwise provided by law, the secretary of state shall  
4 retain a handling charge from filing fees tendered when a document submitted to the secretary  
5 of state under any law is rejected and not perfected. The handling charge is five dollars or fifty  
6 percent of the filing fee, whichever is greater, but may not exceed one hundred dollars.

7 If, upon due presentment, any check, draft, money order, or other form of lawful payment  
8 provisionally accepted in payment of any filing fee authorized to be charged and collected by  
9 the secretary of state, is not honored or paid, or if no lawful form of payment accompanies the  
10 filing, any record of credit or payment must be canceled or reversed as though no credit had  
11 been given or payment attempted and the filing or action is void. The secretary of state may  
12 return to the last-known address of the filer any record or document that was attempted to be  
13 filed or may retain as unfiled the record or document for a reasonable time to permit proper  
14 payment and filing.

15 This section does not apply to fees submitted for filing in, or information obtained from, the  
16 computerized central notice system, to the computerized Uniform Commercial Code central  
17 filing data base, or to the computerized statutory liens data base.

18 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-09-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **54-09-07. Service of process on secretary of state if agent not found or if secretary of**  
21 **state appointed as agent for individual.**

22 If an agent other than the secretary of state has been appointed for receipt of service, but  
23 the affidavit of a sheriff or of an adult who is not a party to a proceeding establishes that diligent  
24 inquiry has been made and that personal service cannot be accomplished upon any registered  
25 agent, officer, or superintending, managing, or general agent of an entity, then the secretary of  
26 state may be deemed the agent of the entity for receiving service of process. Service on the  
27 secretary of state must be made as provided in section 10-01.1-13. Except as otherwise  
28 provided by law, if the secretary of state is appointed as agent for service of process for any  
29 individual under any provision of this code, then service on the secretary of state and the  
30 responsibilities of the secretary of state with respect to the service shall be made or executed in  
31 the manner provided in section 10-01.1-13, to the extent practicable.