

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 915

H.P. 580

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image

Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §651, 3rd ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 55, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 The register shall prepare, or have prepared, a ~~microfilm~~ record of each page of every
5 instrument, plan or other document recorded in the registry office. The ~~microfilm~~ record
6 made must be ~~stored in a fireproof area~~ a digital image stored on magnetic or optical media.
7 When original record books or plans are considered by the register to be in a condition that
8 warrants withdrawal from regular use, the register may make a true copy of the contents of
9 the record or may provide suitable means for reading the ~~microfilm, microfiche or~~ digital
10 image stored on magnetic or optical media of the instruments withdrawn. The records and
11 certified copies made either from the true copy or from images stored as provided in this
12 section must be received in all courts of law with the same legal effect as those contained
13 in the original.

14 **Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §652, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 439, §1, is further
15 amended to read:

16 Paper plans submitted for recording must be rolled and not folded. The register may
17 return plans that are not legible for recording and archival purposes and the processing of
18 which may damage county equipment or resources. The register shall permanently file the
19 original, create a digital image of the plan at a minimum of 300 dots per inch or 300 pixels
20 per inch and maintain a copy for public inspection in paper or digital image form. Each
21 plan must be ~~microfilmed~~ maintained as a digital image stored on magnetic or optical media
22 for archival purposes. Each register shall maintain an index of all plans on record in the
23 register's office.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires a register of deeds to make a record of an instrument recorded in the
26 registry office in the form of a digital image stored on magnetic or optical media, not on
27 microfilm as in current law.