

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSIONCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1096, L.D. 1554, Bill, "An Act
Regarding Document Fees at County Registries of Deeds"Amend the bill in section 1 in §651 by striking out all of the 4th and 5th indented
paragraphs and inserting the following:'Title 1, chapter 13 does not apply to fees for copying records maintained under this
chapter.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §751, sub-§14, as amended by PL 1991, c. 497, §8, is further
amended to read:

14. Abstracts and copies. Making abstracts and copies from the records, a
reasonable fee as determined by the county commissioners for each category of abstracts
and copies, such as paper copies, attested copies, copies obtained online and bulk
transfers of copies. In setting a reasonable fee for each category of abstracts and copies,
the commissioners shall consider several factors, which may include, but are not limited
to: the cost of depleted supplies; records storage media costs; actual mailing and
alternative delivery costs or other transmitting costs; amortized infrastructure costs; any
direct equipment operating and maintenance costs; costs associated with media
processing time; personnel costs, including actual costs paid to private contractors for
copying services; contract and contractor costs for database maintenance and for online
provision and bulk transfer of copies in a manner that protects the security and integrity
of registry documents; and a reasonable rate for the time a computer server is dedicated to
fulfilling the request; and'

SUMMARY

This amendment limits the exemption from the freedom of access laws so that the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, chapter 11 prevails for the purpose of setting fees for
copying registry documents. It removes the increase in recording fees from the bill. The
amendment clarifies that copying fees can be different depending on the type of

- 1 document being copied. It also increases the factors that can be used to determine a
- 2 reasonable fee for copying registry documents to include contract and contractor costs for
- 3 database maintenance and for online provision and bulk transfer of copies in a manner
- 4 that protects the security and integrity of registry documents.