

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1393

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H.P. 1007

House of Representatives, March 26, 2019

### **An Act To Change the Requirements for Recording Plans at the County Registries of Deeds**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §652**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 55, §2, is further amended to  
3 read:

4 **§652. Recording plans**

5 The county commissioners shall provide, at the expense of the several counties,  
6 suitable storage for plans with a minimum size of ~~12 by 18~~ 11 by 17 and a maximum of  
7 24 by 36 inches in dimension, for the preservation of such plans.

8 ~~No~~ A plan may not be accepted for recording unless all of the following criteria are  
9 met. The plan must:

10 **1. Materials.** ~~Be~~ For a plan dated before January 1, 2020, be drawn upon strong  
11 linen cloth or polyester film with archival photographic image or white 20-pound paper.  
12 For a plan dated on or after January 1, 2020, be submitted on white 20-pound paper;

13 **2. Seals.** Be embossed, sealed or both, with the seal of an architect, professional  
14 engineer or registered professional land surveyor;

15 **3. Signature.** Contain the signature and address of the person who prepared the  
16 plan;

17 **4. Recording information.** Provide a ~~space~~ register's block no smaller than 3 by 3  
18 inches for recording the county, date, time, plan book and page or file number and  
19 register's attest; and

20 **5. Title.** Provide a title block containing the name of the plan, the record owner's  
21 name and address, the location by street and town and the date of the plan.

22 ~~Original plans must be recorded with a paper copy~~ Paper plans submitted for  
23 recording must be rolled and not folded. The register may return plans that are not  
24 legible for recording and archival purposes and the processing of which may damage  
25 county equipment or resources. The register shall permanently file the original and  
26 maintain a copy for public inspection in at least one of the following media: paper;  
27 microfilm, microfiche or digital image stored on magnetic or optical media form.  
28 Suitable arrangements must be made for the preserving of original plans while affording  
29 the public reasonable opportunity to examine either the original or a reproduction. No  
30 additional fee is required for recording the copy Each plan must be microfilmed for  
31 archival purposes. Each register shall maintain an index of all plans on ~~records~~ record in  
32 the register's office.

33 ~~The several registers shall establish, and thereafter adhere to, reasonable standards for~~  
34 ~~the implementation of reproducing copies of original plans as recorded. Reproduction~~  
35 ~~must be on a scale of one to one and must be accomplished with the least possible error~~  
36 ~~and distortion. Methods of reproduction must be to standards in keeping with accepted~~  
37 ~~engineering and survey practices.~~

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing recording plans in a  
3 registry of deeds.

4 1. It reduces the minimum paper size for plans.

5 2. It requires that plans be submitted on white 20-pound paper.

6 3. It specifies that paper plans be rolled and not folded.

7 4. It authorizes the register of deeds to return plans that are not legible for recording  
8 and archival purposes and the processing of which may damage county equipment or  
9 resources.

10 5. It specifies the size of the block that the register uses to record certain information.

11 6. It changes the requirements for the handling of originals and copies by the  
12 register.

13 7. It requires each plan be microfilmed for archival purposes.

14 8. It eliminates the requirement for a register to establish standards for making copies  
15 of original plans.