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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 378, L.D. 559, Bill, "An Act To Change Document Filing Fees for County Registries of Deeds"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Change Document Filing and Copying Fees for County Registries of Deeds'

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

'Sec. 3. 33 MRSA §751, sub-§14-B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 508, §1, is further amended to read:

14-B. Paper copies. Making abstracts and paper copies of records at the office of the register of deeds as follows:

A. Five dollars per page for paper abstracts and copies of plans; and

B. One dollar per page for other paper abstracts and copies; and

C. Fifty cents per page for digital abstracts and copies, except that the fee is 5¢ per page for copies of 1,000 or more digital abstracts and copies of consecutive records; and

Sec. 4. 33 MRSA §751, sub-§14-D is enacted to read:

14-D. Downloads of 1,000 or more consecutive electronic images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds. Acquiring downloads of 1,000 or more consecutive electronic images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds equipped to provide downloads of images or electronic abstracts, 5¢ per image or electronic abstract;

Sec. 5. 33 MRSA §751, sub-§14-E is enacted to read:

14-E. Electronic images, printed images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds website. Acquiring electronic images, printed images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds website as follows:

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1 A. No charge for the first 500 images or electronic abstracts, or a combination of the
2 first 500 images and electronic abstracts, acquired by a person in a calendar year; and

3 B. Fifty cents per image or electronic abstract for each subsequent image or
4 electronic abstract after 500 acquired in the same calendar year; and

5 **Sec. 6. 33 MRSA §753** is enacted to read:

6 **§753. Definitions**

7 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following
8 terms have the following meanings.

9 **1. Electronic abstract.** "Electronic abstract" means the digital indexing information
10 for a document.

11 **2. Image.** "Image" means a digital capture of an individual page of a document or
12 plan filed in a county registry of deeds.

13 **3. Person.** "Person" means a person, corporation, partnership or other entity.'

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This amendment separates paper copies from electronic abstracts and images for the
16 purpose of fees assessed by county registries of deeds and further breaks down electronic
17 copies into those downloaded at the office of a county registry of deeds and those
18 downloaded from a county registry of deeds website. In current law, the cost for digital
19 abstracts and images is 50¢ per page, with a fee of 5¢ per page for copies of 1,000 or
20 more digital abstracts and copies of consecutive records. The amendment provides for a
21 fee of 5¢ per image or electronic abstract for acquiring downloads of 1,000 or more
22 consecutive electronic images or electronic abstracts from a county registry of deeds
23 equipped to provide downloads. It also provides for no charge per image from a county
24 registry of deeds website for the first 500 images or electronic abstracts, or a combination
25 of the first 500 images and electronic abstracts, acquired by a person in a calendar year
26 and 50¢ per image or electronic abstract for each subsequent image or electronic abstract
27 acquired in the same calendar year. The amendment also removes the option for county
28 commissioners to raise filing fees as provided in the bill and adds a definitions section.