

REGISTER OF DEEDS

*Brown County*

305 E. WALNUT STREET  
P.O. BOX 23600  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600

CATHY WILLIQUETTE

PHONE (414) 448-4470 FAX (414) 448-4449

REGISTER OF DEEDS

March 20, 1997

Rep. John Dobyms, Chair  
Government Operations Committee  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Rep. Dobyms:

I am in support of AB 158 which relates to increasing and standardizing the recording fees of plats in the register of deeds office.

The majority of documents recorded in my office fall under the recording fees set forth in ss. 59.43(2), which is \$10 for the first page plus \$2 for each additional page. These documents can be no larger than 8 -1/2 inches in width and 14 inches in length. Additionally, recorded documents are returned to the submitter after a copy is made on film or other electronic media.

Plats on the other hand are considered filed and the original document must be stored in my office permanently. These plats are considerably larger than the recorded documents and take up a lot of storage space.

Subdivision and cemetery plats are 22 inches by 30 inches and condominium plats are 14 inches by 22 inches. There is no limit to the number of pages filed with each plat.

The current filing fees for plats varies (subdivision plats are \$25 plus \$.50 for each additional lot over 50 lots, cemetery plats are \$25 for 1-200 lots plus \$5 for each additional 200 lots) and is confusing to the public. This legislation will standardize the filing fees, eliminate the counting of extra pages and lots, and better account for the extra handling and storage expense.

I respectfully ask you to support AB 158.

Sincerely,



Cathy Williquette  
Register of Deeds  
Brown County, Wisconsin



OFFICE OF  
Register OF DEEDS

March 20, 1997

The Honorable John Dobyms  
P. O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Support for AB158

Dear Rep. Dobyms:

I would like to express my strong support for Assembly Bill 158, which sets a fee of \$50.00 for recording plats.

The current fee for recording a plat is \$25.00 for one to fifty lots, and ten cents for each additional lot, except cemetery plats which are \$25.00 for one to two hundred lots plus \$5.00 for each additional 200 lots or fraction thereof. This fee structure can be confusing and is difficult for some people to remember. It is also long overdue for an increase, having been in place since 1929! Counties are not even breaking even with this fee.

As chairperson of the Government Operations Committee, your support will be invaluable. Please contact me or any other register of deeds if you have any questions. I am confident that we are united in our support of this bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loralee Lasley".

Loralee Lasley  
Register of Deeds

# PIERCE COUNTY WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS  
P.O. BOX 267  
COURTHOUSE  
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011  
(715) 273-3531 - Ext. 213



March 21, 1997

Rep. John Dobyms  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison WI 53708

Re: AB158

Dear John:

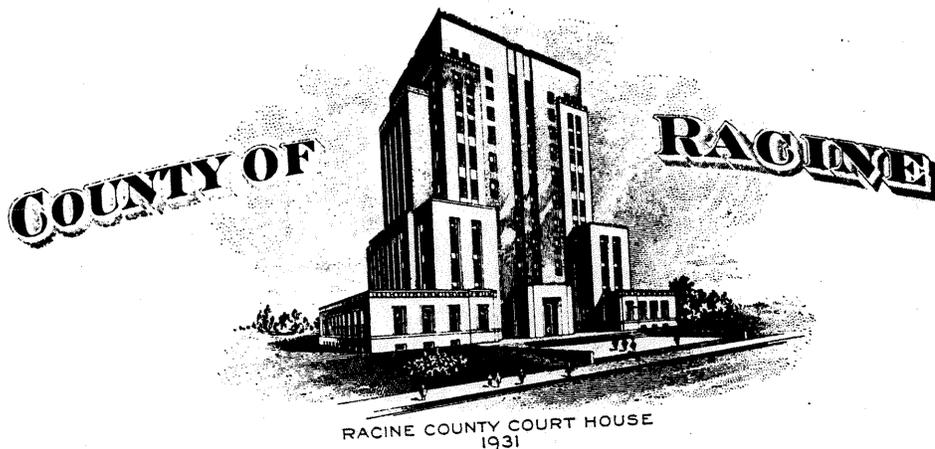
I am writing to request your support for the above mentioned bill (to increase plat fees from \$25 to \$50). According to the Legislative Reference Bureau, plat recording fees have not been adjusted since 1929. This bill would raise the recording fee for a newly platted addition to a flat \$50 and also eliminate adding 10 cents for any lots over 25. The envelopes and cabinets required to store these plats are very expensive so it would help defray the cost of these.

If you have any questions about this, please give me a call.

Thanks, John.

Sincerely,

Connie L. Olson  
Register of Deeds



REGISTER OF DEEDS  
MARK A. LADD

730 Wisconsin Avenue  
**RACINE, WISCONSIN**  
53403

PHONE 414-636-3208  
Racine County Courthouse Toll Free  
1-800-242-4202 Ext. 3208

March 26, 1997

Chairman Dobyns,  
Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of AB158, which Representative Ladwig has authored at the request of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association.

I would like to take the next few minutes to brief you on the four major reasons why I believe you should support this legislation.

First, there currently exist three types of plats that are recorded in the Register of Deeds office, each with a unique pricing structure. However, upon analysis, all plats generate essentially the same amount of work in the county offices that process them. (These are generally the Register of Deeds and the Real Property Lister.) This bill creates one, standard fee for all plats.

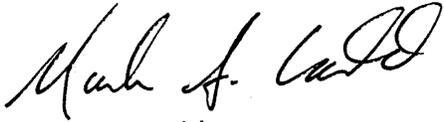
Secondly, under current statutes, the fees for the various types of plats are spread throughout the statutes and are not necessarily listed under Chapter 59.43(2), "Register of Deeds; Fees." This fact leads to the third point.

1995 Wisconsin Act 110, which established standard formats for documents recorded in the Register of Deeds office, also eliminated the charge for "oversized" documents. This is due to the fact that "oversized" documents are no longer recordable. After Act 110 passed through the legislature and across the Governor's desk, the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association discovered that the elimination of the charge for "oversized" documents had the unintended impact of slashing the fee in half for recording one type of plat. This was due to the fact that this type of plat did not have its own pricing structure and relied on the "oversized document" fee, which has now been eliminated.

Lastly, plat fees have not been adjusted since 1929 and the current fees do not cover the costs of processing these documents. This bill brings plat fees in line with current costs.

Based on these four factors, I urge your support for AB158.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark A. Ladd".

Mark A. Ladd  
Racine County Register of Deeds

FISCAL ESTIMATE  
DOA-2048 N(R10/94)

- ORIGINAL       UPDATED  
 CORRECTED       SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
Assembly Bill 158  
Amendment No. if Applicable

**Subject**  
Increasing the Fees Charged by a Register of Deeds for Recording Certain Plats

**Fiscal Effect**

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget     Yes     No

- Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

Local:  No local government costs

1.  Increase Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory

3.  Increase Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

- GPR     FED     PRO     PRS     SEG     SEG-S

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Under current law, the register of deeds charges the following amounts for recording plats:

1. Subdivision or county plats of one to 50 lots - \$25  
    Each additional lot - \$.10
2. Cemetery plats of one to 200 lots or, fractional parts of such lots - \$25  
    Each additional 200 lots, or fractional parts of such lots - \$5
3. Condominium plats - \$10 for the first page and \$2 for each additional page.

This bill sets a flat fee of \$50 for recording these plats.

This bill will increase revenues for counties, due to the increased fee. Increasing the cemetery fee by \$25 will generate increased revenue, but it is not possible to determine the actual amount because it is not known how many of these plats are registered on an annual basis. Condominium plats generally include several pages. However, the current fees would not equal the \$50 proposed fee. Therefore, there will be increased revenues from registering these plats. However, it is not possible to determine the actual amount because it is not known how many of these plats are registered on an annual basis.

There are approximately 700 subdivision and county plats, with an average of 30 lots, that are registered every year. Therefore, the estimated increased revenue, statewide, for these plats would be \$17,500 (700 X \$25 increase in fee).

The total fiscal impact of this bill cannot be determined due to the lack of information on the number of cemetery and condominium plats that are registered, and the resulting revenues.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)  
Commerce/Louis Cornelius, 266-8629

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

*Louis Cornelius*

266-8629

Date  
March 13, 1997

**FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET**

**1997 Session**

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect  
DOA-2047 (R10/94)

ORIGINAL     UPDATED  
 CORRECTED     SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
Assembly Bill 158

Amendment No.

Subject  
Increasing the Fees Charged by a Register of Deeds for Recording Certain Plats

**I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):**

II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal impact on State funds from:	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>		
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)	( FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs		-
Local Assistance		-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	\$	\$ -
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>		
GPR	\$	\$ -
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
<b>III. State Revenues -</b> Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)		
GPR Taxes	\$	\$ -
GPR Earned		-
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	\$	\$ -

**NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT**

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$ _____	\$ _____
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$ _____	\$ See Text of Note

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)  
Commerce/Louis Cornelius, 266-8629

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

 266-8629

266-8629

Date  
March 13, 1997