

**DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRB-2917/P1dn
MES:jld:jf

July 29, 2009

Senator Erpenbach:

It is my understanding that fees generated by the filing and recording of documents with a register of deeds go the county's general fund, to the extent that the fees are not directed elsewhere by statute (see, for example, s. 59.72 (5)). Consequently, I did not include any language authorizing the use of the fees, as increased by the bill, to specific purposes such as the purchase of equipment, or the payment for equipment previously purchased, related to aiding in the redaction of social security numbers. Money is fungible, so if a county would like to appropriate money from its general fund for these purposes, it may do so. It wouldn't matter whether the source of that money in the general fund is property tax revenue, for example, or the increased recording and filing fees generated under this bill.

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