

WHAT WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 314 [2009 Senate Bill 507] Register of Deeds, Redaction of Social Security Numbers, and Land Information Programs

2009 Wisconsin Act 314 makes a number of changes to the laws relating to fees collected by a register of deeds, the redaction of Social Security numbers from electronic documents, and land information programs including the following:

- 1. While a county board that has established a county land information office may apply to the Department of Administration (DOA) for grants related to the program, a county board must, before it expends money for any other purpose, complete its land information system and make public records in the land information system accessible on the Internet.
- 2. Prior to Act 314, a register of deeds was authorized to collect, when recording or filing an instrument, \$11 for the first page and \$2 for each additional page. Act 314 provides that this fee will be \$25 for each instrument. The fee for recording certificates and for preparing and mailing documents remains \$25. However, Act 314 provides that, for these recordings, filings, preparations, and mailings, a fee of \$30 may be collected if a county uses \$5 of each \$30 fee to make Social Security numbers from electronic format records not reviewable or accessible on the Internet. The additional fee may be collected until the earliest of: (a) completion of the project; (b) January 1, 2012, unless DOA grants one-year extensions; or (c) January 1, 2015.
- 3. With respect to an instrument filed or recorded by a register of deeds before April 1, 2006, the register of deeds must make a reasonable effort to make Social Security numbers from a transferred instrument's electronic format not viewable or accessible on the Internet.
- 4. A county that has established a county assessor system must provide Internet access to countywide property tax assessment data, and, if the county maintains land records identifying zoning classification of individual parcels, the county board must post, on the Internet, land records that identify the zoning classification of individual parcels.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <u>http://www.legis.state.wi.us/</u>.

5. If a county board has established a land information office, it must also create a land information council consisting of not less than eight members as specified in Act 314. The council must review the priorities, needs, policies, and expenditures of the land information office and advise the county on matters affecting the land information office.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on June 25, 2010.

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RS:jal;ksm