

Julie Delphia
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H.899

4/18/18

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ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

- Sen. [Jeanette K. White](#), Chair
- Sen. [Brian Collamore](#), Vice Chair
- Sen. [Claire Ayer](#)
- Sen. [Alison Clarkson](#), Clerk
- Sen. [Christopher A. Pearson](#)
- **Gail Carrigan**, *Committee Assistant*

Good Morning,

I am very proud to be the Town Clerk and Treasurer in Leicester. I receive the majority of my pay through the clerk fees being discussed in H.899. Karen Richard has been kind enough to update me on the progress of this bill and I would like to take a moment of your time to share my thoughts.

When this bill was first introduced, I balked at the idea. I took a snapshot of recording for a year and based on the wording in the bill was looking at a very marginal increase (<\$200 for the year) in fees even with the much needed increase for property transfer returns. Given the dependency on page count, this small increase could very well have been a loss as we tend to have high page count recordings. This amount (or possible loss) would not compensate for the increased tracking that would be required to manage the change.

Karen indicated that there is currently discussion regarding the fees in (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(6)(A) being \$25 first page, \$10 additional. I can fully support this option. This option not only increases the first page cost (as it should since the first page requires more work) but also maintains the current per page fee. This change to the current wording would ensure that ALL towns would see an increase in income **regardless of page count**...and clerks (and attorneys/bankers) wouldn't need a calculator to figure out the cost of a recording.

Example: I received a recording in my office that included a deed, property transfer return, and mortgage (a very common recording in Leicester). Based on the current \$40/5

wording, I would have lost money on the recording. With the \$25/10 wording, I would have received an increase (which would be very welcome after so many years without an increase).

When this bill was introduced, I also struggled with the requirement for the reserve fund monies to come out of fees. Leicester generously budgets each year for the reserve fund and has never required the monies to come from fees (my pay). I was thrilled to read the changes in the reserve fund section allowing the Town to determine where the monies come from.

Note: I believe that (a)(9)(c)(2) may be redundant as both (a)(9)(c)(1) and (a)(9)(d) allow Towns to deposit more than the minimum requirement.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration and looking out for clerks who continue to be paid on fees.

Have an amazing day!

Julie

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am - 2pm

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