



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5011**

LCO No. 4432



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 1-212 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (a) Any person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon  
5 request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public  
6 record. The type of copy provided shall be within the discretion of the  
7 public agency, except (1) the agency shall provide a certified copy  
8 whenever requested, and (2) if the applicant does not have access to a  
9 computer or facsimile machine, the public agency shall not send the  
10 applicant an electronic or facsimile copy. [The] Except as provided in  
11 subsection (g) of this section and section 7-34a, as amended by this act,  
12 the fee for any copy of a record other than a land record provided by a  
13 public agency in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act [:

14 (A) By an executive, administrative or legislative office of the state, a  
15 state agency or a department, institution, bureau, board, commission,

16 authority or official of the state, including a committee of, or created by,  
17 such an office, agency, department, institution, bureau, board,  
18 commission, authority or official, and also including any judicial office,  
19 official or body or committee thereof but only in respect to its or their  
20 administrative functions, shall not exceed twenty-five cents per page;  
21 and

22 (B) By all other public agencies, as defined in section 1-200,] shall not  
23 exceed [fifty] fifteen cents per page. If any copy provided in accordance  
24 with [said] the Freedom of Information Act requires a transcription, or  
25 if any person applies for a transcription of a public record, the fee for  
26 such transcription shall not exceed the cost thereof to the public agency.

27 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 1-212 of the general statutes is  
28 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
29 *1, 2021*):

30 (e) Except as otherwise provided by law, the fee for any person who  
31 has the custody of any public records or files for certifying any copy of  
32 such records or files, or certifying to any fact appearing therefrom, shall  
33 be for the first page of such certificate, or copy and certificate, one dollar;  
34 and for each additional page, [fifty] fifteen cents. For the purpose of  
35 computing such fee, such copy and certificate shall be deemed to be one  
36 continuous instrument.

37 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 1-212 of the general statutes is  
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
39 *1, 2021*):

40 (g) Any individual may copy a public record through the use of a  
41 hand-held scanner. A public agency [may establish a fee structure not  
42 to exceed twenty dollars for an] shall not charge a fee to any individual  
43 [to pay each time the individual] who copies records at the agency with  
44 a hand-held scanner, except that in the case of land records, a public  
45 agency may establish a fee structure not to exceed twenty dollars per  
46 day for the copying of land records using a hand-held scanner. As used

47 in this section, "hand-held scanner" means a battery operated electronic  
48 scanning device the use of which (1) leaves no mark or impression on  
49 the public record, and (2) does not unreasonably interfere with the  
50 operation of the public agency. "Hand-held scanner" includes, but is not  
51 limited to, a mobile telephone or camera.

52 Sec. 4. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 7-34a of the general  
53 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
54 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

55 (a) (1) Town clerks shall receive, for recording any document, ten  
56 dollars for the first page and five dollars for each subsequent page or  
57 fractional part thereof, a page being not more than eight and one-half by  
58 fourteen inches. Town clerks shall receive, for recording the information  
59 contained in a certificate of registration for the practice of any of the  
60 healing arts, five dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording  
61 documents conforming to, or substantially similar to, section 47-36c,  
62 which are clearly entitled "statutory form" in the heading of such  
63 documents, as follows: For the first page of a warranty deed, a quitclaim  
64 deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, ten dollars; for  
65 each additional page of such documents, five dollars; and for each  
66 assignment of mortgage, subsequent to the first two assignments, two  
67 dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording any document with  
68 respect to which certain data must be submitted by each town clerk to  
69 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with  
70 section 10-261b, two dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Any  
71 person who offers any written document for recording in the office of  
72 any town clerk, which document fails to have legibly typed, printed or  
73 stamped directly beneath the signatures the names of the persons who  
74 executed such document, the names of any witnesses thereto and the  
75 name of the officer before whom the same was acknowledged, shall pay  
76 one dollar in addition to the regular recording fee. Town clerks shall  
77 receive, for recording any deed, except a mortgage deed, conveying title  
78 to real estate, which deed does not contain the current mailing address  
79 of the grantee, five dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Town

80 clerks shall receive, for filing any document, ten dollars; for receiving  
81 and keeping a survey or map, legally filed in the town clerk's office, ten  
82 dollars; and for indexing such survey or map, in accordance with section  
83 7-32, ten dollars, except with respect to indexing any such survey or map  
84 pertaining to a subdivision of land as defined in section 8-18, in which  
85 event town clerks shall receive twenty dollars for each such indexing.  
86 Town clerks shall receive, for a copy, in any format, of any document  
87 either recorded or filed in their offices that constitutes a land record, one  
88 dollar for each page or fractional part thereof, as the case may be; for  
89 certifying any copy of the same, two dollars; for making a copy of any  
90 survey or map, the actual cost thereof; and for certifying such copy of a  
91 survey or map, two dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording the  
92 commission and oath of a notary public, twenty dollars; and for  
93 certifying under seal to the official character of a notary, five dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	1-212(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	1-212(e)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	1-212(g)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	7-34a(a)(1)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To reduce the fee for copying public records and eliminate the fee for copying records that are not land records with a camera, cell phone or portable scanner.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.  
REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.

H.B. 5011