

AUTHORIZING RECORDS TO BE COPIED
Act of May 11, 1949, P.L. 1076, No. 311
AN ACT

CL. 65

Authorizing the recording, copying and recopying, of documents, plats, papers, written instruments, records and books on file or of record, and the replacement and certification of originals previously filed and of record, by officers of counties of the first class and of cities of the first class, by photostatic, photographic, microphotographic, microfilm, or other mechanical process; relating to the effect and use of such copies, records, reproductions, replacements and transcripts, or certified copies thereof; providing for a recording fee and its use; and providing for revision of and entries to be made on originals and copies so produced or replaced. (Title amended Feb. 18, 1998, P.L.184, No.30)

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Whenever any officer of any county of the first class or of any city of the first class is required or authorized by law or otherwise to record, copy or recopy any document, plat, paper or instrument of writing, he may do so by any photostatic, photographic, microphotographic, microfilm, microcard, miniature photographic, optical, electronic or other process which accurately reproduces the original and forms a durable medium for recording, storing and reproducing the original in accordance with standards, policies and procedures for the creation, maintenance, transmission or reproduction of images of records not less than those approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Any document, plat, paper or instrument of writing within the scope of this section and which previously has been recorded, copied or recopied also may be reproduced by processes authorized by this section.

(1 amended Feb. 18, 1998, P.L.184, No.30)

Section 1.1. In addition to any other fee provided by law, including any fee set by local ordinance, a fee in the amount of \$2 shall be charged and collected for each document recorded by the recorder of deeds or equivalent officer of any city or county of the first class. Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the general fund of such city or county for appropriation solely to the office of the recorder of deeds or equivalent officer of any city or county of the first class to be used, in accordance with regular budgeting, contracting and procurement practices, to support development and improvement of office records management activities and systems in the office of the recorder of deeds or in its equivalent. Amounts so appropriated shall not be used to substitute any allocations of general fund revenues for the operation of the recorder's office.

(1.1 added Feb. 18, 1998, P.L.184, No.30)

Section 2. In any case where an original document, plat,

paper, written instrument, record, or book of record, previously filed or of record in the office of such officer is, whether because of the worn or injured condition thereof or for any other reason, copied and replaced by such process, and where such officer is required by law to certify in or on the paper or book replacing the original so copied that the replacement is a true and correct copy of the original, a copy of such certification by such officer, similarly made and produced and included at the end of the replacement, shall be sufficient compliance with such law.

Section 3. Copies, records, reproductions and replacements, or enlarged reproductions thereof, thus produced, shall be considered as original copies, records, papers, or books of record, for all purposes, shall have the same effect in law and equity, and shall be admissible in evidence in like manner and under the same conditions as original copies, records, papers, or books of record, produced or copied in any other manner authorized by law.

Section 4. Transcripts or certified copies of such copies, records, reproductions and replacements, shall be considered as transcripts or certified copies of the originals.

Section 5. In any case where any record or replacement thereof in the office of any such officer is produced by such process, any correction, alteration, endorsement, or entry, required or authorized to be made of or on any instrument or paper or on the record thereof, may be made by filing or inserting copies or recopies produced by the same process, of the pages, page, or part of the page, so corrected, altered, or on which such endorsement or entry is made, next to the place wherein the copy or record of such instrument or paper is contained or in such other manner as such officer shall deem advisable or practicable.

Section 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7. The provisions of this act shall become effective immediately upon final enactment.