

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3385

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3385, which seeks to modify the statute governing the fee schedule for public records filed with county clerks. This legislation is an important step toward enhancing transparency, accessibility, and accountability in our local government processes.

Public records are a vital resource for citizens who want to engage with their government, understand local issues, and hold public officials accountable. However, the current fee structure can create barriers for individuals and organizations seeking access to these records. By modifying the fee schedule, HB 3385 will help ensure that public information remains accessible to all, regardless of their financial situation.

One of the key benefits of this bill is its potential to promote civic engagement. When citizens can easily access public records without facing prohibitive costs, they are more likely to participate in their local government and stay informed about important issues that affect their lives. This increased transparency fosters trust between government officials and the community, ultimately strengthening our democratic processes.

Furthermore, a revised fee schedule can streamline the process for county clerks, making their jobs more efficient while ensuring compliance with public records laws. By creating a more manageable and fair fee structure, we can enhance the overall effectiveness of our public record systems.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 3385. This legislation is essential for promoting transparency, encouraging civic engagement, and ensuring that all citizens have equal access to public information. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.