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**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 1452 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Bev Hammerstrom
Committee: Local, Urban and State Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 25 of 1836, which pertains to books of deeds and other instruments relating to land titles, to provide that, beginning March 1, 2005, if a register of deeds provided a person with a copy of an instrument from a book of records that contained a Social Security number, the register of deeds could obscure or remove all or at least five digits of the number from the copy before providing it. This provision would not apply after June 30, 2007. Beginning July 1, 2007, a register of deeds would be required to obscure or remove all or at least five digits of the Social Security number from a copy before providing it. Neither of these provisions would apply if State or Federal law, rule, regulation or court order or rule required the number to appear in the instrument or copies of it.

The Act requires a register of deeds or his or her deputy to certify each copy as a true copy of the original record. The bill provides, instead, that if a register of deeds provided a certified copy of an instrument from a book of records, the register of deeds or his or her deputy would have to certify that the copy was a true copy of the instrument as reflected in the public record.

The bill states that "books", as used in the Act, would include a computerized recording system for instruments relating to the title of land.

(Public Act 25 of 1836 authorizes the board of supervisors of a county that is attached to another county for judicial purposes, to direct its register of deeds to record in books a complete copy of all deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, or other instruments relating to the title of land in the county and on record in the county to which it is attached.)

MCL 565.581

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no effect on State revenue or expenditures. The bill would not affect local unit revenue but could increase local unit expenditures by an indeterminate amount. For register of deeds' offices handling a low volume of documents primarily in paper form, the costs would likely be negligible. Larger offices handling many documents and/or offices with online systems could face substantial costs in adapting systems or modifying documents.

Date Completed: 12-13-06

Fiscal Analyst: David Zin

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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