

Licensing Service Fees



Washington County supports legislation to increase the fees retained by deputy registrars for completing license transactions. This business model, when fully funded, allows the deputy registrars to provide a wide variety of deputy registrar services and ensures services are available throughout Minnesota.

Issue At-A-Glance

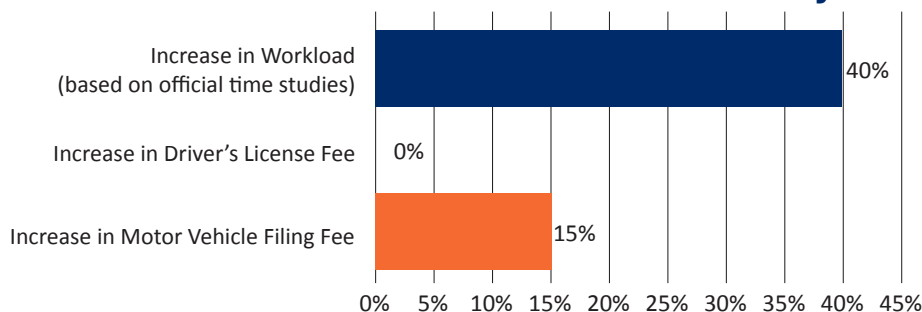
- The deputy registrar portion of driver's license and motor vehicle fees are set by statute and without legislative action it cannot be increased
- Since 2017, the implementation of two new statewide systems and the requirement to process Enhanced and Real ID compliant driver's licenses has increased the costs of license center operations by moving data entry from the state to the deputy registrar offices, requiring additional background checks for employees, and increasing transaction times by nearly 40%.



State transactions processed by the county

Prior to the arrival of COVID-19, the license and service centers managed by Washington County processed 300,000 transactions annually on behalf of the state; approximately 18,000 of these are no fee transactions for driver's license and motor vehicle services, such as motor vehicle sticker address changes, driver's license status updates, and disability certificates. The fee retained by the deputy registrar for providing these important services must be adequate to cover the costs.

Motor Vehicle & Driver's License Increases Since July 2017



Support

Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association and the Minnesota Association of County Officers.

Previous Consideration

The County Board has a long history of supporting legislation that provides local taxpayer protection while delivering high quality core services.

- 2017: Legislature considered deputy registrar fee increases for Real ID costs; no increase approved
- 2019: Legislature authorized one-time state funding to reimburse deputy registrars for expenses related to MNLARS; increased the deputy registrar portion of the motor vehicle fee by 15% (which does not fully fund the increased costs)
- 2020: legislation to increase deputy registrar fees re-introduced, not considered due to priorities concerning COVID-19

No Action

If no action is taken, the County Board will need to provide ongoing levy support for license services or eliminate this core function.

Financial Implications

Increasing the fees for services provided by deputy registrars will help offset the costs of providing driver's license and motor vehicle transactions in the county's license centers on behalf of the state. An increase in fees will help ensure the partnership with the state remains viable so our residents have access to the services they need.

Contact

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