

For Immediate Release  
April 21, 2016

Contact: Paul DeYoung, Van Buren Register of Deeds  
269-657-8242

**Michigan Association of Register of Deeds and Senate work to stop unethical private companies from fleecing citizens by selling Deeds.**

LANSING, Mich—Governor Rick Snyder has signed into law legislation that will prevent private companies from charging exorbitant fees for copies of deeds that are available from their county Register of Deeds for only \$1.00 per page.

"This law is long overdue," said Amy Bissell, President of the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds. "For years citizens have been solicited by private companies charging as much as \$80 for their own deed when they are able to obtain copies of the same deed from their local register of deeds office for as little as \$1.00."

"These companies would send letters that were designed to look like an official government mailing to lure the property owners into their scheme. We are appreciative of the legislature taking up this issue to solve this problem to protect property owners," she continued.

Under the terms of the legislation, the attorney general can bring action against anyone who knowingly violates the terms of the act. The court can order the person to refund all of the money paid by the victims of the scam with respect to the solicitation. In addition, the company may be ordered to pay a fine of \$100 for the first violation of the act followed by \$200 for a subsequent violation. Fines collected under this section shall be distributed to public libraries.

PA 79 of 2016 was sponsored by Senators Hertel, Schuitmaker, O'Brien, Knezek, Hood, Young, Jones, Ananich, Gregory, Marleau and Schmidt.

###