AN ACT Relating to the recording standards commission; amending RCW 65.24.010 and 65.24.040; adding a new section to chapter 65.24 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 65.24.900.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes the necessity to clarify existing law regarding the recording of documents with county recording departments and county auditors. Recording standards and practices vary from county to county, which creates confusion and liability. County recorders, real estate firms, title and escrow companies, and consumer groups need simplified and standardized recording standards and fees. It is the intent of the legislature that the secretary of state have the authority to create regulations for consistent recording of documents by county auditors.

Sec. 2. RCW 65.24.010 and 2008 c 57 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
(1) "Document" means information that is:
(a) Inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an
electronic or other medium, and is retrievable in perceivable form; and

(b) Eligible to be recorded in the land records maintained by the
recording officer.

(2) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical,
digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar
capabilities.

(3) "Electronic document" means a document that is received by
the recording officer in an electronic form.

(4) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or
process attached to or logically associated with a document and
executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the document.

(5) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust,
estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association,
joint venture, public corporation, government, or governmental
subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or
commercial entity.

(6) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any
territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the
United States.

(7) "(E-recording) Recording standards commission" means the
body of stakeholders appointed by the secretary of state to review
recording standards, including but not limited to electronic
recording standards, and make recommendations to the secretary under
RCW 65.24.040.

Sec. 3. RCW 65.24.040 and 2008 c 57 s 5 are each amended to read
as follows:

(1) The office of the secretary of state shall create and appoint
(a recording standards commission. The (e-
recording) recording standards commission shall review recording
standards, including electronic recording standards, and make
recommendations to the secretary of state for rules necessary to
implement this chapter. A majority of the commission must be county
recorders or county auditors. The commission may include assessors,
treasurers, land title company representatives, escrow agents, and
mortgage brokers, the state archivist, county surveyors, and any
other party the secretary of state deems appropriate. The term of the
commissioners will be set by the secretary of state.

(2) To keep the standards and practices of recording officers in
this state in harmony, and to promote harmony with the standards and
practices of recording offices in other jurisdictions that enact
similar legislation or policy and to keep the
technology used by recording officers in this state compatible with
technology used by recording offices in other jurisdictions that
enact similar legislation or policy, the office of
the secretary of state, under RCW 40.14.020, so far as is consistent
with the purposes, policies, and provisions of this chapter, in
adopting, amending, and repealing rules supporting recording
standards shall consider:

((1)) (a) The standards and practices of other jurisdictions;

((2)) (b) The most recent standards adopted by national
standard-setting bodies, such as the property records industry
association;

((3)) (c) The views of interested persons and governmental
officials and entities;

((4)) (d) The needs of counties of varying size, population,
and resources; (and

((5)) (e) Standards requiring adequate information security
protection to ensure that ((electronic)) documents are accurate,
authentic, adequately preserved, and resistant to tampering;

(f) Standards requiring adequate information security protection
to ensure that electronic documents are accurate, authentic,
adequately preserved, and resistant to tampering;

(g) Standards for the certification of recorded documents
including imaged paper documents and documents that are received by
the recording officer in an electronic form; and

(h) Standards on the documentation and recording of boundary line
adjustments for real property.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 65.24
RCW to read as follows:

(1) The secretary of state, as chief archivist, shall make
reasonable rules in accordance with federal and state laws, to
provide for the uniform recording of documents in cooperation with
the commission established in this chapter.
(2) In addition to the rule-making authority granted otherwise by this section, the secretary of state may make rules governing the following:

(a) Recording duties of county recorders and county auditors;
(b) Recording standards for the creation of certified copies for use as evidence;
(c) Recording standards for documents related to eminent domain;
(d) Recording standards for documents related to community property;
(e) Recording standards for documents related to unfit dwellings, buildings, and structures;
(f) Recording standards for court summons served and court judgments;
(g) Recording standards for documents related to military discharge;
(h) Recording standards for documents related to boundaries and plats not otherwise under the rule-making authority of another state agency;
(i) Recording standards for documents related to liens;
(j) Recording standards for documents related to mortgages, deeds of trust, and real estate contracts;
(k) Recording standards for documents related to the uniform commercial code;
(l) Recording standards for documents related to real property and conveyances;
(m) Standards to be used in recording, registration, and legal publication under this chapter;
(n) Recording standards for documents related to cemetery property;
(o) Standards for fee waivers including but not limited to documents for veterans, and support of dependent children;
(p) Recording standards for documents related to mines, minerals, and petroleum;
(q) Recording standards for documents related to public lands, including tidelands, and shorelines;
(r) Recording standards for documents related to excise tax on real estate;
(s) Recording standards for documents related to property tax;
(t) Recording standards for documents prepared in foreign countries; and
(u) Recording standards for documents not identified in (a) through (t) of this subsection.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. RCW 65.24.900 (Short title) and 2008 c 57 s 1 are each repealed.

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