



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 206 [2003 Assembly Bill 591]	Various Changes Concerning the Register of Deeds
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

Act 206 makes a number of changes regarding the recording and filing of documents with the offices of registers of deeds and the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI):

1. Requires documents pertaining to security interests that are filed with the offices of registers of deeds to meet most of the format and legibility standards for documents recorded with those offices.
2. Requires documents pertaining to security interests and certain other records that are filed with the offices of registers of deeds to be indexed in the real estate records index, rather than other separate indexes.
3. Clarifies which documents are recorded and which are filed with the offices of registers of deeds, and which are filed with the DFI.
4. Provides that only the DFI must include in the file number for each document a digit that is mathematically derived from or related to the other digits of the file number. Prior to Act 206, the offices of registers of deeds were also required to include this number.
5. Provides that only the DFI, not the offices of registers of deeds, is required to provide results of searches of its records for financing statements filed in its filing system.
6. Eliminates the requirement that the DFI and the offices of registers of deeds enter all information regarding filings under the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, relating to security interests into the statewide lien system.
7. Eliminates, effective July 1, 2010, the requirement that the statewide lien system be maintained.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

8. Makes changes to the current law dealing with the filing of notices of federal tax liens and related documents to make the duties of the registers of deeds with regard to federal tax liens consistent with their duties with regard to other documents filed or recorded with their offices.

Effective Date: Except for the provisions dealing with recording and filing fees, 2003 Wisconsin Act 206 takes effect on April 23, 2004. The provisions relating to filing and recording fees take effect on September 1, 2005.

Prepared by: Nicholas Zavos, Staff Attorney

May 24, 2004

NZ:jal