



# *ENACTMENT SUMMARY*

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## **Senate Bill 94**

Electronic filing; computerization funds  
Effective October 24, 2024

On July 24, 2024, Governor DeWine signed into law Senate Bill 94 (Sen. Brenner and Sen. Landis). Originally pertaining to recorded documents and the Uniform Depository Act as introduced, the bill was amended in the House to include several unrelated provisions, including language regarding the electronic filing of court documents and authority over clerk computerization funds, as described below.

### Electronic filing

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, provides that pleadings or documents filed in a court of common pleas may be filed in either paper or electronic format. The bill extends that same “requirement” to municipal and county courts, giving them 270 days from the bill’s effective date to begin accepting documents by either paper or electronic means. The bill also provides that it is up to the clerk of the common pleas, municipal, or county court to determine whether electronic filing can be accomplished either through email or through some other kind of online platform. The bill allows for the payment of filing in electronic format to be made after the filing, and prohibits clerks from requiring payment for electronic filing before the documents are filed, unless an electronic payment system is provided. The bill additionally prohibits clerks from requiring a fee for electronic filing that is more than the fee for filing paper documents.

### Computerization funds

Existing law allows courts to establish two different “computerization funds,” one for the computerization of the court, and one for the computerization of the office of the clerk of court. Prior to S.B. 94, the court had the authority to set the amount of the computerization fees that go into each fund, and expenditures from those funds were subject to an order from the court. S.B. 94 changes this to provide that the authority to set clerk computerization fees now lies with the clerk in courts where the clerk is not an appointed position. For municipal/county clerks that are appointed, the court retains the authority to set the fee. For appointed common pleas clerks, the county executive assumes that authority. Additionally, expenditures from the clerk computerization fund are no longer subject to an order from the court.

The bill passed the Ohio Senate on May 8, 2024 by a vote of 29-1 and the Ohio House of Representatives on June 25, 2024 by a vote of 80-14, with the Senate concurring in House amendments the same day by a vote of 30-1. It was signed into law on July 24 and becomes effective on October 24, 2024.