$75 fee to go into effect Jan. 1, 2018

A new state recording fee will go into effect on Jan. 1.

The new fee will add $75 per title to the first 3 titles of a transaction. The new fee will not be more than $225. This is on top of the regular recording fees that you must pay.

The State Legislature passed a new law, known as the Building Homes and Jobs Act or Senate Bill 2 (SB 2). SB 2 aims to raise money to fund affordable housing projects. It requires the county recorder to collect the new fee. If you have questions or concerns, you should address them to your state representatives.

SB 2 does not apply to all recordings. If you think the fee does not apply to your recording, you must tell us why on the front of your document. Here are some common reasons you may use to explain why you should not have to pay the new fee:

- This is a document recorded in connection with a transfer that is subject to the imposition of a documentary transfer tax.
- This is a document recorded in connection with a transfer of real property that is a residential dwelling to an owner-occupier.
- This is a document that is not related to real property.

Want to learn more about the law? Here it is:

**Government Code 27388.1(a)(1)**

“…A fee of seventy-five dollars ($75) shall be paid at the time of recording of every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded, except those expressly exempted from payment of recording fees, per each single transaction per parcel of real property. The fee imposed by this section shall not exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars ($225).”

**Government Code 27388.1(a)(2)**

“The fee shall not be imposed on any real estate instrument, paper, or notice recorded in connection with a transfer subject to the imposition of a documentary transfer tax as defined in Section 11911 of the Revenue and Taxation Code or on any real estate instrument, paper or notice recorded in connection with a transfer of real property that is a residential dwelling to an owner-occupier.”