

Topic: Certificate of Existence

Question by: Chuck Rogers

Jurisdiction: Virginia

Date: 18 August 2010

Jurisdiction	Question(s)			
	How much do you charge to issue a certificate of existence (or good standing or its equivalent)?	Can the certificate be obtained online?	If it can be obtained online, is there a price discrepancy between the online and paper versions?	Approximately how long has (have) the current fee(s) been in effect?
Manitoba				
Corporations Canada				
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona	\$10 for regular \$45 for expedite service (our expedite fee is \$35)	Yes	No	10+ years
Arkansas	\$25	Yes	\$3.00 service charge assessed by the online webservice.	\$25.00 statutory - \$3.00 fee since online inception April 2003.
California				
Colorado	\$5 for a certificate of good standing or existence on paper. \$25 for a certificate of fact of no record or a long form good standing.	Certificates of good standing can be obtained online.	Yes – certificates of good standing are free online, but \$5 on paper.	We put a new fee structure in place June 22, 2010, but the fee for certificates of good standing/existence have been the same for a long time.

Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia	It depends on the type of entity. For-profit corporation and LLCs pay \$16.50, while nonprofits pay \$33, etc.	Not yet. We are planning to roll out online services very soon.	N/A	Fees just went up 10% as of June 2010.
Florida	Corporation=\$8.75 LLC=\$5.00 LP=\$8.75	Yes	Same price	About 20 years.
Georgia				
Hawaii	\$5 paper/\$7.50 online	Yes.	Yes - \$5 paper/\$7.50 online	6 years
Idaho	\$10	Yes.	<p>\$11.50 - Online certificate - The certificate will be generated and displayed in your web browser. You can print the certificate to your printer.</p> <p>\$12.00 - Official certificate - A certificate with an original signature will be prepared by the Secretary of State's office. You can request that the certificate be mailed to you, or that the Secretary of State's office give you a call when the certificate is ready to be picked up.</p> <p>The price discrepancy is because of charges by our online portal provider.</p>	<p>Paper fees: 10+ years.</p> <p>Online: 5 years.</p>
Illinois				
Indiana	\$15	Yes	Yes	The online service was available around 2001.
Iowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana	\$20	Yes	Only a difference of \$2.00 which is accessed when payment for services is by credit card	Over 10 years.

Maine	\$10 for a nonprofit corporation; \$30 for all others	Yes	Same price	Approx 10 years.
Maryland				
Massachusetts				
Michigan	\$10 for a Certificate of Good Standing, or an equivalent certificate. Fees for certificates are set by the State Administrative Board and they last reviewed our fees in the mid 1990s.	No. Such certificates have been available by fax since 1997 but are not currently available online.	N/A	When we replace our current legacy system, hopefully in 2011, we will implement the ability to order and receive a wide variety of certifications online. We will be assigning a unique number to such certificates and provide an online feature to allow a person to look up the unique number to verify the certificate's authenticity.
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
Missouri	\$10	Yes	Same price - \$10	1994
Montana	\$5	Yes	No	Approximately 15 years.
Nebraska	\$10	No	N/A	Over 20 years.
Nevada	\$50 (\$100 for ceremonial certificate on colored certificate, with silver seal)	Yes	No.	2003
New Hampshire	\$5.00 (additional \$25.00 for expedited service)	Not yet.	N/A	Since at least 1981, if not before.
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York	\$25	No, however service companies can establish an account and print certificates of existence for \$50.	N/A	More than 15 years.
North Carolina	\$10 electronic; \$15 paper	Yes	Yes. \$10 electronic/\$15 paper	8 years.
North Dakota	\$15 + \$5 for search of records	Not yet, but it is planned	N/A	
Ohio	\$5	Yes	No discrepancy	At least 15 years.
Oklahoma	\$20	Yes	No	At least 15 years.

Oregon	\$15	No	N/A	At least 15 years.
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island	In Rhode Island we charge \$20.00 for business entity good standings/certificates of existence and \$5.00 for non-profit corporations.	For a small enhanced access fee, certificates can be purchased online. We do not return an electronic certificate, all orders are either picked-up or returned by mail.	For a small enhanced access fee, certificates can be purchased online.	Our current fees have been in effect since July 1, 2005.
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas	\$15	Yes	No	Sept. 2005
Utah	\$12	Yes	No	7 years
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington	Certificate of Status - \$20 Certificate of Existence - \$20 Certificate of Authority - \$20 Certificate of no record - \$20 Certificate of Status Long Form (this includes all history recorded in our office) - \$30	Not at this time. But we are looking at it for the near future.	Don't know yet, but probably.	About 20 years
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

Additional comments:

16 September 2010: FYI - The New York State Department of State has revised its certificates of existence for corporations and other business entities.

Effective September 16, 2010, certificates of existence issued by the New York Department of State for corporations and other business entities will be produced with a gray laser facsimile of the Department of State seal. The blue Department of State seal will no longer be used on certificates of existence.

There will be no changes to certificates of existence produced off-site by authorized service companies. Certificates of existence produced off-site will continue to include a black facsimile of the Department of State seal.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Gary M. Trechel

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Full text of email:

Greetings from Virginia! We are planning to offer our equivalent of a certificate of existence through our relatively new SCC eFile portal and would like each state to provide answers to the following questions.

How much do you charge to issue a certificate of existence (or good standing or its equivalent)?

Can the certificate be obtained online?

If it can be obtained online, is there a price discrepancy between the online and paper versions?

Approximately how long has (have) the current fee(s) been in effect?

Thanks!

Chuck Rogers

Principal Charter Examiner

Office of the Clerk

Virginia State Corporation Commission

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