

Topic: Online filing - do you charge an access fee?
 Question by: Patricia L. Barfield
 Jurisdiction: Arizona
 Date: January 26, 2015

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those of you that have online filing of any documents, do you charge a separate access fee for the privilege of using the online service?</p> <p>Whether or not you have online filing, do any of you charge any separate fees associated with using your database for normal things such as searches for entity information (not reports, just normal functions)?</p> <p>We do not currently charge an access fee for our online filing.</p>
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	<p>At this time we do not charge any access or convenience or tech fees.</p> <p>We are discussing the possibility of adding a fee in the future, when folks can access images online, in order to view a document online or download and print it. We figure accessing the image online will obviate the need for folks to order a plain copy, so we stand to lose a good deal of plain copy revenue once images are available online.</p>
Delaware	
District of Columbia	<p>In DC we do not have charge any extra fees for using our online services.</p>

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those of you that have online filing of any documents, do you charge a separate access fee for the privilege of using the online service?</p> <p>Whether or not you have online filing, do any of you charge any separate fees associated with using your database for normal things such as searches for entity information (not reports, just normal functions)?</p> <p>We do not currently charge an access fee for our online filing.</p>
Florida	<p>Florida does not charge extra for online filings. Our statutes were amended for us to accept the filing amount less the credit card fee from our third party credit card processor when filing electronically. Therefore there is no extra to the public.</p> <p>All our information is available online at no extra charge.</p>
Georgia	<p>Georgia does not collect a convenience fee.</p>
Hawaii	<p>Hawaii does not charge a fee to use our online services. We do not require fee for business name and information searches.</p>
Idaho	
Illinois	
Indiana	<p>Indiana has a separate "enhanced access fee" related to online filings. However, we lowered the statutory filing fees for online filings so that the total filing fee (statutory + enhanced access fee) is still lower than the filing fee for paper filings.</p> <p>The statutory fees go to the general fund and the enhanced access fees go to the SOS for supporting our IT initiatives. It has worked out very well.</p>
Iowa	
Kansas	<p>We don't charge an access fee. In fact, our filings are discounted by \$5 if they are filed electronically.</p>
Kentucky	
Louisiana	<p>Louisiana does not charge extra for filing online or normal things such as searching our database.</p>
Maine	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	<p>Massachusetts does assess an expedited fee for each online or fax filing made with the office.</p>
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	<p>Missouri does not charge an access fee to search or retrieve any entity information from the website.</p>
Montana	<p>See additional comments below</p>

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those of you that have online filing of any documents, do you charge a separate access fee for the privilege of using the online service?</p> <p>Whether or not you have online filing, do any of you charge any separate fees associated with using your database for normal things such as searches for entity information (not reports, just normal functions)?</p> <p>We do not currently charge an access fee for our online filing.</p>
Nebraska	
Nevada	
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	
New Mexico	
New York	
North Carolina	<p>North Carolina doesn't charge for searches or using the online tools. There is however a \$2.00 transaction fee for using the credit card or ACH payment methods.</p>
North Dakota	
Ohio	<p>Ohio does not charge a separate access fee to use our online services.</p>
Oklahoma	
Oregon	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those of you that have online filing of any documents, do you charge a separate access fee for the privilege of using the online service?</p> <p>Whether or not you have online filing, do any of you charge any separate fees associated with using your database for normal things such as searches for entity information (not reports, just normal functions)?</p> <p>We do not currently charge an access fee for our online filing.</p>
Texas	<p>Texas has statutory authority to assess and collect a fee for providing electronic access to our records/data. (Legislative authority for the system and fee was enacted in 1989.) Section 405.018(d) of the Texas Government Code requires the Texas Secretary of State to set and collect a fee for electronic access to business entity and UCC data/information maintained by the Secretary. The authorized fee was to be an amount reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of establishing and administering the system. Our current online system allows a user to search our records, order copies and certificates, and make a number of online filings (the majority of our formation and registration filings are electronic filings).</p> <p>The fee set to access our data/information is currently set at \$1.00 per search of our records. The fee is based on the number of searches performed. Once the search results are displayed to the user, the user can retrieve data and information on the records retrieved from the name searched or place orders. The \$1 search fee is not assessed if you are simply using the online system to create and submit an electronic filing; a search fee will apply however if you make a separate search of the database before beginning the web filing application process. If you make a name search while you are in the web filing application (e.g., online domestic formation and foreign registration applications have an option to perform a name availability search) or if you place a order on a retrieved record (certified copy request or certificate of fact concerning a record retrieved), the \$1 search fee is waived.</p>
Utah	
Vermont	
Virginia	<p>We do not charge a fee to use our online services, but our third-party vendor does charge and collect a convenience fee for the payments it processes.</p> <p>Database searches are free on our websites.</p>
Washington	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

Additional comments:

MONTANA:

The Montana Secretary of State's Office charges a small 'convenience' fee for each online payment. We do not, however accept filings online. Once payment is made the customer must print out the receipt and fax to our office along with the corresponding documents.

Additionally, in order to use this feature the filing must be either a priority (24 hour \$20.00) or expedite (1 hour \$100.00) filing.

Here some information from our website that might be useful:

"The Registered Principals Search queries the Montana Secretary of State's database for businesses associated with an individual.

There is a \$4.00 charge per Individual Name Search performed and a \$2.00 charge per principal search performed listing officers, directors, members, managers, etc. for a business under the Business Name Search. You may also perform just a Business Name Search for free if you are not wanting the principals of a business or a certificate. You will be charged for each search even if there are no results found.

You can also search for a company by name. This is a free search, and will return a list of possible matches from which you can view details of a company, order certificates, and view the principals of the company."

As a follow-up I forgot to mention in my email yesterday that the Montana Secretary of State's Office does accept online filing of our annual reports. Below is a screenshot of our online filing instructions including cost for annual reports.

Full text of email:

Hi Everyone!

For those of you that have online filing of any documents, do you charge a separate access fee for the privilege of using the online service?

Whether or not you have online filing, do any of you charge any separate fees associated with using your database for normal things such as searches for entity information (not reports, just normal functions)?

We do not currently charge an access fee for our online filing.

Thank you in advance for responses!

Patricia L. Barfield
Director, Corporations Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-0787
pbarfield@azcc.gov