

(A) OFFICE EQUIPMENT.

[[SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COURT,]] A CLERK MAY USE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS TO AID HIM IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES, AND SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COURT, MAY CHANGE THE SYSTEM OF INDEXING RECORDS IN HIS OFFICE TO A MORE MODERN AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM.

(B) COST OF EQUIPMENT.

EXCEPT IN THE DISTRICT COURT, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE COMPTROLLER, THE COST OF OFFICE EXPENSES AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT USED BY A CLERK TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES SHALL BE ALLOWED AS EXPENSES OF HIS OFFICE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived from Art. 17, §§ 1 and 2 and Art. 75, §90. Sec. 2 presently applies only to circuit court clerks, however, clerks of any court, subject to the approval of the judges, probably have the authority to modernize their indexing systems, even without specific statutory authority. See Art. 26, §149(d). Therefore, it seems appropriate to expand this section to apply to clerks of all courts.

This section is shortened by omitting the list of specific items for which the clerk may expend money (i.e., books, racks, shelves, and other supplies). As more modern storage systems, such as microfilm, are developed, this listing might unintentionally limit the employment of modern methods.

The requirement that this reindexing be budgeted from the excess fees of the clerks office is deleted as obsolete. The Comptroller's office expresses the opinion that reindexing may be done even if there are no excess fees.

An exception for the District Court is contained in subsection (b) because that court is separately budgeted, and not funded through the Comptroller's office.

SEC. 2-203. INSPECTION OF RECORDS.