

reflective of actual market conditions. There was no evidence that the clerks are not aggressively collecting the correct amounts for the local governments. Since the current process is well established and is convenient for our citizens, I am opposed to granting the procedural changes authorized by Senate Bill 78.

This legislation also provides for local government to receive approximately \$4 million that is currently retained by the clerks and that offsets the clerks' operational expenses. My major problem with this provision is that it will create a \$4 million shortfall in future State budgets. The clerks fiscal year 1993 general fund appropriation is \$42 million. I am unwilling to force the State to assume any other costs associated with operating the clerks' offices.

I believe that the financial needs of the counties were recognized and addressed during the First Special Session of 1992 of the General Assembly. At that session, the counties were granted new taxing authority, which will permit them to raise up to \$243.7 million in new revenues in fiscal year 1993. Also, State aid to local governments was restructured and the counties realized a net gain of \$64 million from those changes. In view of those combined actions, Senate Bill 78 will have no significant impact on the budgets of the individual counties.

I am confident that the clerks are performing an important public service in an effective manner. I further believe that the current fee structure is reasonable, and is important to the clerks' operations. Because I do not believe an administrative change is warranted and I am unwilling to commit additional general funds to the clerks' offices, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 78.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Senate Bill No. 78

AN ACT concerning

Recordation Tax – Payment and Collection

FOR the purpose of altering the manner in which the recordation tax on certain instruments is paid and collected; providing that the recordation tax ~~shall~~ may be paid to and collected by certain county officials; requiring certain persons recording certain instruments for property located in 2 or more counties to submit certain certificates to certain persons; requiring a certain county official to deduct from the recordation tax and remit to the Comptroller a certain amount under certain circumstances; providing a certain exception; and generally relating to the payment and collection of the recordation tax imposed on certain instruments.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Tax – Property