

# **BORDER-CROSSING PAPERS TO INVOLVE FEE;**

## **CHARGE AIMED AT AREA RESIDENTS, NOT TRAVELERS**

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### **Body**

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A new federal service **charge** for **border-crossing** documents will primarily affect **residents** of the **area** along the U.S.-Canadian border, an official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Twin Cities said Friday.

The new **fees** for both Canadian and Mexican border crossings, to take effect in October, were announced this week by federal officials in Washington.

Dean Hove, acting district director for the INS office in Minneapolis, said a document used by border-**area residents** that allows them to cross without an inspection will now cost \$16, or a maximum of \$32 for a family.

Hove said 4,000 to 6,000 people per year obtain the document, known as an I-68, in Minnesota and North Dakota. Most are in the International Falls-Fort Francis **area**, and the document enables them to cross more easily. There had been no **charge** for the document previously.

Hove said the new **fees** are to be used to hire more employees to improve service at the **border crossing**. In addition to the I-68 **fee**, more specialized documents used primarily by Canadian citizens will also have new **fees**, Hove said. This includes a **border-crossing** card used by Canadian truck drivers, he said.

Hove said the new **fees** will **not** affect the casual vacationer making a one-time passage across the border. He said the INS hopes it can diminish summertime backups at busy crossings, such as the International Falls-Fort Francis bridge, by hiring more agents.

As of Oct. 9, according to the INS Washington office, the service will **charge** processing **fees** ranging from \$4 to \$32 for six different forms allowing for extended stays, broadened **areas** of travel and boat-landing permits.

The estimated \$18 million in new revenues will be dedicated for improvements at land-border ports of entry. The INS estimates the **charges** will allow it to hire 185 more inspectors and support staff throughout the U.S.

The new levies reflect federal policies shifting costs for certain benefits to the consumer, INS officials said.

"The time has come to levy these modest service **charges** in order to support and enhance customer service to the mounting numbers of visitors entering the United States along the Mexican and Canadian borders," said INS Commissioner Doris Meissner.

The latest regulation allows INS border officials to waive any of the service **charges** in cases of hardship.

This report includes information from the Associated Press.

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