3. As above indicated, where any public record is required to determine eligibility for any benefit made available by the Veterans Administration the entire certified copy must be furnished without charge. Where the pension, bounty, back pay or prize money does not come through the Veterans Administration the official may not charge for his attestation or certificate or for comparing any such copy with the original, but may charge for preparing the copy which he certifies or attests, if he is required to prepare that copy.

The official may, of course, make reasonable inquiry as to the purpose for which the certified copy is required, but the statute requires no particular method of establishing such purpose and the official may take verbal statements or require written proof in his discretion.

OFFICIAL OPINION NO. 21
March 15, 1946.

Hon. Clement T. Malan,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
State House,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of February 27, 1946, has been received in which you request an opinion on the following questions:

"1. May a school township be bonded up to 2% and the civil township bonded up to 2% for school building purposes?

"2. May a school city be bonded up to 2% and the civil city bonded up to 2% for school building purposes?"

Article 13, Section 1 of the Constitution of Indiana provides in part as follows:

"No political or municipal corporation in this State shall ever become indebted in any manner or for any purpose to an amount in the aggregate exceeding two
per centum on the value of the taxable property within such corporation, to be ascertained by the last assessment for State and county taxes, previous to the incurring of such indebtedness; and all bonds or obligations in excess of such amount, given by such corporations, shall be void: * * *"

It has been held that the school township and the civil township are separate and distinct corporations and may be bonded up to two per cent (2%) of the value of the taxable property in such corporation without violating the provisions of the foregoing section of the State Constitution.

Follett v. Sheldon, Treasurer (1924), 195 Ind. 510, 529;

From the reasoning used in each of the foregoing cases it is clear the same result would have been reached by the court had it been required to decide on the bonding of a school city and a civil city.

I am therefore of the opinion each of your questions should be answered in the affirmative providing the Legislature has provided for the creation of such an obligation on behalf of the civil township or civil city. On this question as to the civil township your attention is directed to Section 28-3103 Burns’ 1933; Section 65-313 Burns’ 1943 Replacement, Section 1, Chapter 102, Acts 1913, and Section 28-3419 Burns’ 1945 Supplement, Section 1, Chapter 242, Acts 1943.

On the question of use of civil city funds for such purpose see Section 28-1304 Burns’ 1933, same being Section 1, Chapter 19, Acts 1873.

On the question of general authority of school corporations generally to construct schools see Section 28-2421 Burns’ 1945 Replacement, Section 1, Chapter 257, Acts 1945.