

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary A to Original Senate Bill No. 587 by Senator LaFleur

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1 delete lines 2 through 5 and insert the following:

3 "To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2554(D) and (F) and 2555(A) and (B) and to enact R.S.
4 13:10.5, relative to official court reporters; to provide relative to digital recording by official
5 court reporters; to provide procedures, terms, conditions, and requirements; to provide
6 relative to certification; and to provide for related matters."

7 AMENDMENT NO. 2

8 On page 1, at the end of line 11, delete "court" and delete lines 12 through 17, and insert the
9 following:

10 "or deputy official court reporter for the purposes of this Section.

11 B. The court reporter shall make a verbatim record of oral court
12 proceedings through the use of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand
13 or machine writing, stenomask voice recording, computer assisted technology,
14 electronic audio recording, or any other generally recognized manner of court
15 reporting that is acceptable and approved by the judge, using equipment
16 generally accepted in the field of court reporting and approved by the judge.

17 C. A court reporter engaged in electronic reporting shall be proficient
18 and knowledgeable in the operation of any and all electronic equipment chosen
19 by the judge for the purpose of recordation of testimony in the courtroom.

20 D. As used in this Section:

21 (1) "Official court reporter" is a salaried permanent or temporary
22 employee on the payroll of a court of record or parish government who is
23 certified to perform and actually performing the duties of a court reporter.

24 (2) "Deputy official court reporter" is a salaried permanent or
25 temporary employee on the payroll of a court of record or parish government
26 who is certified to perform and actually performing the duties of an interim
27 court reporter during the absence or incapacity of the official court reporter.

28 E. A court reporter appointed under this Section shall be certified in the
29 following manner:

30 (1) If not engaged in electronic reporting, by the Louisiana Board of
31 Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters as provided by law.

32 (2)(a) If engaged in electronic reporting, by the American Association
33 of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers.

34 (b) The board shall issue a certificate to a court reporter appointed
35 under this Section upon proof of passage of the American Association of
36 Electronic Reporters and Transcribers examination.

37 (c) However, a court reporter certified by the Louisiana Board of
38 Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters may engage in electronic reporting
39 if, within a two - year period commencing on August 15, 2010, or the date of
40 appointment, whichever is later, such court reporter obtains certification from
41 the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers.
42 Additionally, a court reporter who has been certified by the Louisiana Board
43 of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters in any method of reporting,
44 whether shorthand, machine writing, stenomask voice recording, computer
45 assisted technology, or other means, or who have received limited certification
46 granted pursuant to any intergovernmental agreement between a court and the
47 board, and who is performing duties for a court of record using electronic
48 reporting as a means of making the verbatim record of court proceedings as of
49 August 15, 2010, shall be deemed certified in electronic reporting and

transcribing, and shall not be required to obtain further certification as an electronic reporter and transcriber as long as they remain employed by the same court of record and are using generally acceptable electronic equipment recognized in the field of court reporting and approved by the judge of the court of record.

F. In order to maintain licensure, a court reporter appointed under this Section shall be required to obtain at least twelve continuing education credits during a period of two consecutive calendar years in courses approved by the board.

G. A court reporter appointed under this Section shall be limited to providing transcripts of court proceedings at the direction of the presiding judge or by local court rule and shall be prohibited from serving as a general or freelance reporter, except as provided by law. Such court reporter shall have authority to certify and confirm the integrity of any and all transcripts of proceedings from the court for which they are appointed. The presiding judge shall oversee and supervise such court reporter to insure the proper recordation of testimony and transcription of any testimony taken during a court proceeding."

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, delete lines 1 through 11

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 2, line 12, change "D." to "H."

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, after line 16, insert the following:

"I. The provisions of this Section shall not be applicable to the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, the New Orleans First and Second City Courts, the New Orleans Municipal and Traffic Courts, and on and after the effective date of its creation, the Forty-First Judicial District Court.

Section 2. R.S. 37:2554(D) and (F) and 2555(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2554. Qualifications; examinations; certificates

* * *

D. The board shall in no way restrict the use of electronic equipment to certificate holders hereunder in the performance of their duties, but shall exclude the use of all electronic recording equipment, except stenomask **and digital recording equipment**, to all applicants at the time and place of examination.

* * *

F. The board shall promulgate by rule a procedure to convert to the certified court reporter, or C.C.R., certificate, all certificates previously issued by the board, including the certified shorthand reporter, or C.S.R., and the certified general reporter, or C.G.R., certificates, which remain in effect subject to the regulatory authority of the board pending conversion. The board may also establish by rule appropriate designations by which the various capabilities of certified court reporters may be identified, including the system of shorthand reporting under which a certificate holder is certified, the means by which a certificate was obtained, and other criteria by which the public may be better informed in contracting for shorthand reporting services. **The board shall further promulgate by rule procedures for issuing a certificate to a court reporter appointed pursuant to R.S. 13:10.5 upon proof of passage of the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers examination.**

