2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 627

BY REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides relative to transcript fees charged by court reporters in the 14th Judicial District

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 13:964(H) and 964.1(B) and to repeal R.S. 13:964.2, relative to
3	court reporters; to provide for an increase in transcript fees in the Fourteenth Judicial
4	District; to provide for a contingent effective date; and to provide for related matters.
5	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6	Section 1. R.S. 13:964(H) and 964.1(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7	as follows:
8	§964. Court reporters for fourteenth judicial district Fourteenth Judicial District
9	* * *
10	H. In all cases which are reported and transcribed for appeal, a fee of two
11	dollars and twenty-five cents three dollars and twenty-five cents per page for
12	originals, and twenty-five cents seventy-five cents per page for each copy, shall be
13	charged by and paid to the reporter. In those cases which are reported but not
14	transcribed, one-half of the fees provided herein in this Subsection for originals shall
15	be charged by and paid to the reporter. Such fees shall be retained by the reporter
16	as compensation, in addition to the salary provided for in Subsection G of this
17	Section, and shall be taxed as costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken.
18	* * *
19	§964.1. Fourteenth Judicial District; indigent transcript fund; reporter's fees
20	* * *

Page 1 of 3

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	B. Court reporters shall be paid two dollars and twenty-five cents three
2	dollars and twenty-five cents per thirty-one two-line page for such work, and twenty-
3	five seventy-five cents per page for each copy, as funds become available, all such
4	payments to be made from the criminal indigent transcript fund by the court
5	administrator.
6	* * *
7	Section 2. R.S. 13:964.2 is hereby repealed in its entirety.
8	Section 3. In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 13:62, the provisions of this Act
9	shall become effective if and when the Judicial Council provides a recommendation that
10	such court costs or fees meet the applicable guidelines in its 2018 Report to the Louisiana
1	Legislature.
	DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 627 Engrossed 2017 Regular Session Dwight

Abstract: Increases the transcript fees available for court reporters in the 14th JDC in Calcasieu Parish for matters on appeal or prepared for indigents.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes court reporters in the 14th JDC in Calcasieu Parish to charge a \$2.50 per page for originals and \$.25 per page for copies for all cases which are reported and transcribed for appeal, and for all cases which are reported but not transcribed, one-half of those fees.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains present law and increases the amount from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per page for originals and from \$.25 to \$.75 for copies that court reporters in the 14^{th} JDC in Calcasieu Parish can charge for all cases which are reported and transcribed for appeal.

<u>Present law</u> requires the court administrator for the 14th JDC to establish a criminal indigent transcript fund for deposit of all monies received for payment of court reporter fees for transcripts prepared for indigents.

<u>Present law</u> requires the fund to be used only to compensate criminal court reporters for preparation of any transcript for indigent defendants, including trials, motions, hearings on writs, and all court proceedings. <u>Present law</u> further requires that the court reporters be paid a fee of \$2.50 per 31-line page and \$.25 per page copy in all cases, by the court administrator, as funds become available.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but increases the court reporter fee <u>from</u> \$2.50 to \$3.25 per 32-line page and <u>from</u> \$.25 to \$.75 per page copy on transcripts for indigent defendants.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals a duplicative provision of law referring to court reporter fees in Calcasieu Parish.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the provisions of <u>proposed law</u> to become effective if and when the Judicial Council reviews such request and makes a recommendation to the legislature in its 2018 report that the fees meet applicable guidelines.

(Amends R.S. 13:964(H) and 964.1(B); Repeals R.S. 13:964.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Judiciary</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

- 1. Provide that <u>proposed law</u> will become effective if and when the Judicial Council reviews the request and makes its recommendations to the legislature in its 2018 report.
- 2. Add technical amendments.