

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and  
3 (C), 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and  
4 (2), 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1), and to repeal  
5 R.S. 13:970(K), Act No. 126 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of  
6 Louisiana, Act No. 232 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana,  
7 Act No. 52 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, Act No. 228  
8 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and the provisions of  
9 Act No. 447 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana enacting  
10 R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v), relative to court reporter fees; to provide for a statewide  
11 revision of court reporter fees; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and (C),  
14 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and (2),  
15 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1) are hereby amended and  
16 reenacted to read as follows:

17 §961. Court reporters; generally

18 \* \* \*

19 F.(1)(a) ~~In all civil and criminal cases a fee not to exceed one dollar and fifty~~  
20 ~~cents per thirty-one-line page and twenty-five cents per copy reported and~~  
21 ~~transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and~~  
22 ~~transcribed the testimony.~~ (i) In all civil and non-indigent criminal cases a fee not

1        to exceed five dollars per thirty-two-line page transcript and not to exceed two  
2        dollars per page per certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and  
3        paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Fees may be  
4        set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges in the court for which the  
5        reporter is employed.

6                (ii) In all criminal indigent cases a fee not to exceed three dollars and fifty  
7        cents per thirty-two-line page transcript and not to exceed one dollar per page per  
8        certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court  
9        reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Fees may be set up to the  
10       statutory amount by a majority of the judges in the court for which the reporter is  
11       employed.

12               (iii) These fees shall be retained by him as compensation, in addition to the  
13       salary as provided in Subsection E, and shall be taxed as costs of the case in which  
14       such testimony is taken.

15               (b) No fee shall be assessed or collected when providing an electronic copy  
16       of a previously transcribed transcript.

17               (c) Salaried court reporters shall not, in any civil or criminal case, charge a  
18       sitting fee.

19               (d) When an expedited transcript is requested, the following expedited fees  
20       may be charged:

21               (i) For transcription within twenty-four hours, a court reporter may charge  
22       two times the allowable per page rate set pursuant Subparagraph (a) of this  
23       Paragraph.

24               (ii) For transcription within forty-eight hours, a court reporter may charge  
25       an additional three dollars per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to  
26       Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

27               (iii) For transcription within five days, a court reporter may charge an  
28       additional one dollar per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to  
29       Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

1           ~~(b) In the Ninth Judicial District such fee shall not exceed two dollars and~~  
2           ~~fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

3           ~~(c) In the Seventeenth Judicial District such fee shall not exceed two dollars~~  
4           ~~and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and fifty cents for each copied page.~~

5           ~~(d) In the Third Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the~~  
6           ~~amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all testimony reported~~  
7           ~~and transcribed in all cases.~~

8           ~~(e) In the Second, Fifth, and Eighteenth Judicial Districts, in all cases, except~~  
9           ~~those to be filed in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for~~  
10          ~~each page and each copied page of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be~~  
11          ~~charged by and paid to the court reporter.~~

12          ~~(f) In the Twenty-Third Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed~~  
13          ~~in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to~~  
14          ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and each copied page~~  
15          ~~of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court~~  
16          ~~reporter.~~

17          ~~(g) In the Twenty-Eighth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~  
18          ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~  
19          ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents nor~~  
20          ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

21          ~~(h) In the Thirty-Fifth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~  
22          ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~  
23          ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents nor~~  
24          ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

25          ~~(i) In the Twenty-First Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed~~  
26          ~~in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to~~  
27          ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one-line page and each copied page~~  
28          ~~of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court~~  
29          ~~reporter.~~

1           (j) In the Eighth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the  
2           amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases;  
3           which fee shall be not less than one dollar and fifty cents nor exceed two dollars and  
4           fifty cents per thirty-one line page and a fee not to exceed fifty cents per copy per  
5           page of transcribed testimony.

6           (k) In the Fourth Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed in  
7           forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to  
8           exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one-line page and each copied page  
9           of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court  
10          reporter.

11          (l) In the Sixth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the  
12          amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases;  
13          which fee shall not exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page  
14          and a fee not to exceed fifty cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony.

15          (m) In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District, parish of Bossier, in all cases a fee  
16          determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to exceed two dollars and  
17          fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and fifty cents for each copied page of all  
18          testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter.

19          (n) In the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court, a majority of the judges  
20          shall determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all  
21          testimony reported and transcribed in all cases.

22          (o) In the Thirty-Sixth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall  
23          determine the amount of the fee which shall be paid to the court reporter for the  
24          transcription of each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases;  
25          which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents and shall not exceed two  
26          dollars and seventy-five cents per thirty-one-line page and the amount of the fee per  
27          copy of each page of transcribed testimony, which shall not exceed twenty-five  
28          cents.

1           ~~(p) In the Eleventh Judicial District, a majority of the judges en banc shall~~  
2           ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~  
3           ~~testimony reported and transcribed in all cases in an amount not to exceed two~~  
4           ~~dollars and seventy-five cents per page and in an amount not to exceed twenty-five~~  
5           ~~cents per copy.~~

6           ~~(q) In the Thirty-Ninth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~  
7           ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~  
8           ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents~~  
9           ~~for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to exceed twenty-five cents per copy per~~  
10          ~~page of transcribed testimony.~~

11          ~~(r) In the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District, a majority of the judges en banc~~  
12          ~~shall determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~  
13          ~~testimony reported and transcribed as required by law, which fee shall not exceed~~  
14          ~~two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to~~  
15          ~~exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony.~~

16          ~~(s) In the Thirty-Third Judicial District Court, in all civil and criminal~~  
17          ~~appeals, a fee not to exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents per thirty-two-line~~  
18          ~~page and twenty-five cents per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and~~  
19          ~~be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. These fees~~  
20          ~~shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to any other salary and shall be~~  
21          ~~taxed as costs of the case in which such testimony is taken.~~

22          ~~(t) In the Thirty-Seventh Judicial District, the judge shall determine the~~  
23          ~~amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases,~~  
24          ~~which fee shall not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line~~  
25          ~~page and a fee not to exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed~~  
26          ~~testimony.~~

27          ~~(u) In the Twentieth Judicial District Court, a majority of the judges shall~~

1 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~  
2 ~~testimony reported and transcribed in all cases.~~

3 \* \* \*

4 §962. Court reporters for ~~the~~ First Judicial District

5 \* \* \*

6 H. As compensation, each court reporter shall be paid a salary from the fund  
7 hereinafter created of not less than one thousand seventy-five dollars per month, and  
8 such additional amounts as are determined by a majority of the judges; plus an  
9 amount ~~to be determined by a majority of the judges~~ at the rate established pursuant  
10 to R.S. 13:961 for each ~~thirty-one line~~ thirty-two-line page and for each copied page  
11 of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases, said salary to be paid monthly  
12 and other compensation as submitted for payment. ~~The length of the transcript page~~  
13 ~~may be changed from thirty-one lines to twenty-five lines at the discretion of a~~  
14 ~~majority of the court.~~ All recording and transcribing machines, typewriters, supplies,  
15 and extra help shall be paid by such court reporters personally. Additional  
16 compensation, recording and transcribing machines, supplies, and extra help may be  
17 provided to the court reporters for work in criminal court as required and as ordered  
18 by the majority of the judges, the cost thereof to be paid from the criminal court  
19 fund, or indigent defender fund, any other available fund, or as otherwise provided  
20 by law and as ordered by a majority of the judges.

21 \* \* \*

22 §963. Court reporters for Thirteenth Judicial District

23 I.(1)(a) In all civil cases, a fee ~~of two dollars and twenty-five cents per page~~  
24 ~~and twenty-five cents per copy of each page reported and transcribed~~ at the rate  
25 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be charged by and paid to each court  
26 reporter for reports and for transcribing the testimony.

27 (b) In criminal cases, a fee ~~not to exceed two dollars per page and twenty-~~  
28 ~~five cents per copy of each page reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established

1        pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be charged by and paid to such court reporter for  
2        performing such duties.

3                                \*           \*           \*

4        §964. Court reporters for Fourteenth Judicial District

5                                \*           \*           \*

6                H. In all cases, a ~~majority of the judges shall determine the amount of the fee~~  
7        ~~which~~ a fee at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be paid to the court  
8        reporter for the transcription of each page of all testimony reported and transcribed  
9        and the amount of the fee per copy of each page of transcribed testimony. The  
10       provisions of this Subsection shall also apply to cases which are reported but not  
11       transcribed. Such fees shall be retained by the reporter as compensation, in addition  
12       to the salary provided for in Subsection G of this Section, and shall be taxed as costs  
13       of the suit in which the testimony is taken.

14                                \*           \*           \*

15        §964.1. Fourteenth Judicial District; indigent transcript fund; reporter's fees

16                                \*           \*           \*

17                B. Court reporters shall be paid ~~three dollars and twenty-five cents per thirty-~~  
18        ~~two-line page for such work, and seventy-five cents per page for each copy at the~~  
19        rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, as funds become available, all such  
20        payments to be made from the criminal indigent transcript fund by the court  
21        administrator.

22                                \*           \*           \*

23        §966. ~~Nineteenth judicial district~~ Judicial District; payments in suits under pauper  
24        act

25                A. Out of its general fund the governing authority for East Baton Rouge  
26        Parish shall pay the court reporters of the nineteenth judicial district for the taking  
27        and transcribing of the testimony in suits filed under the provisions of ~~R.S. 13:4525~~  
28        ~~through 13:4529 at the rate of seventy-five cents per legal page of thirty-one lines~~  
29        R.S. 13:4529 at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. The original and one

1 copy shall be furnished in cases appealable to the court of appeals; in cases  
2 appealable to the supreme court the original and three copies shall be furnished. The  
3 payment shall be made monthly to the court reporters upon presentation of an  
4 itemized statement of the costs approved by any of the judges of the district. The  
5 payments to be made by the governing authority under the foregoing provisions shall  
6 not exceed the gross sum of fifteen hundred dollars for any one year to each of the  
7 court reporters.

8 \* \* \*

9 C. All judgments rendered in cases, in which the party availing himself of  
10 the provisions of ~~R.S. 13:4525 through 13:4529~~ R.S. 13:4529 shall be cast for costs,  
11 together with a statement of such costs shall be recorded by the clerk of court in the  
12 mortgage records of the parish of East Baton Rouge. Such judgments when recorded  
13 shall operate as a judicial mortgage in favor of the governing authority of East Baton  
14 Rouge parish for the amount of costs paid to the court reporters. The governing  
15 authority of East Baton Rouge parish, at its expense, may have this judgment and  
16 statement of costs (or a certified copy thereof) recorded in the mortgage records of  
17 any other parish or parishes, and when recorded the judgment shall operate as a  
18 judicial mortgage in favor of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge parish for  
19 the amount of costs paid.

20 \* \* \*

21 §967. Twenty-Fourth Judicial District; court reporters; civil filing fees

22 \* \* \*

23 C.(1) In all cases on appeal, the reporter shall be paid a fee ~~not to exceed two~~  
24 ~~dollars and fifty cents for each original page transcribed~~ at the rate established  
25 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 and, when a copy is requested by a litigant, shall furnish  
26 such copy and be paid a fee not to exceed ~~one dollar for each page thereof~~ the rate  
27 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, except that in criminal cases on appeal by  
28 indigent defendants, no more than a ~~total of two dollars and seventy-five cents for~~  
29 ~~each page transcribed~~ the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, including all



1 copies necessary for appeal, shall be charged to and paid from any fund established  
2 by law for the payment of expenses incurred in the defense of indigent persons in  
3 criminal proceedings. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to make the  
4 governing authority of the parish of Jefferson responsible for the expenses or costs  
5 associated with the preparation of transcripts for an indigent defendant in a criminal  
6 proceeding, including but not limited to bills of exceptions, trials, motions, hearings  
7 on writs, or any other costs associated with an appeal in a criminal proceeding.

8 \* \* \*

9 §969. Court reporters for ~~the~~ Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Court

10 \* \* \*

11 G. In all civil cases, a fee ~~determined by a majority of the judges en banc for~~  
12 ~~each original page and for each copied page of testimony, which fee shall not exceed~~  
13 ~~two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to~~  
14 ~~exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony~~ at the rate  
15 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court  
16 reporter for reports and for transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him  
17 as compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein, and shall be taxed as  
18 costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken to be collected by the clerk of court,  
19 except in pauper cases; payment of the fees shall be made primarily by the appellant  
20 immediately upon the transcription of the evidence, and the court reporter shall not  
21 be required to file the transcript with the clerk of court before payment. Should the  
22 appellant fail or refuse to make such payment, the appellee or any other party to the  
23 suit may make the same and have it assessed as cost. Even though counsel may  
24 attempt to procure a transcript of the entire record by alleging that the entire record  
25 is necessary to support a motion for a new trial, the trial judge shall not order the  
26 entire transcript to be typed unless he deems it indispensable to the record of the  
27 motion or proceedings.

28 \* \* \*

1 I. The court reporters shall record such criminal proceedings as may be  
2 required by law or as ordered by the court. No fee shall be charged for taking  
3 evidence on assignments of error, motions, or other pleadings in criminal cases,  
4 unless approved by the presiding judge. In all criminal cases where a transcript is  
5 required by law, a fee ~~determined by a majority of the judges en banc for each~~  
6 ~~original page and each copied page of testimony, which fee shall not exceed two~~  
7 ~~dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to exceed~~  
8 ~~twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony~~ at the rate established  
9 pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court reporters for  
10 reporting and transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him as  
11 compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein. When so approved, any  
12 such payment may be made from the criminal court cost fund. In such cases,  
13 however, only properly designated portions of the record shall be transcribed.

14 \* \* \*

15 §970. Court reporter for Twenty-sixth Judicial District for Webster Parish

16 \* \* \*

17 L. Additionally, in civil and criminal cases the Webster Parish Police Jury  
18 shall be paid ~~two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line legal size page and fifty~~  
19 ~~cents per page~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 for copies for all  
20 testimony transcribed by the court reporters. This charge shall be taxable as court  
21 costs and shall be advanced to the court reporter assigned to the case for delivery to  
22 the Webster Parish Police Jury for deposit in the clerk of court reporter's fund.

23 \* \* \*

24 §971. Sixteenth and Twenty-Seventh Judicial Districts; additional court reporters;  
25 fees charged by court reporters; indigent transcript fund

26 \* \* \*

27 B.(1)(a) In the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District, in all civil cases a fee ~~of~~  
28 ~~three dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page~~ at the  
29 rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 for copies reported and transcribed shall be  
30 charged by and paid to the court reporter who reports and transcribes the testimony

1 and shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to the salary as provided  
2 herein.

3 \* \* \*

4 (2) In all criminal cases, except those involving indigent defendants, a fee  
5 ~~of three dollars and fifty cents per page for the original, and fifty cents for each copy~~  
6 ~~thereafter reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961  
7 shall be paid to the court reporter who reports and transcribes the testimony and shall  
8 be retained by him as compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein. The  
9 payment of fees in criminal cases involving indigent defendants shall be governed  
10 by the provisions of R.S. 13:4529.

11 \* \* \*

12 (7) Court reporters shall be paid ~~three dollars and fifty cents per~~  
13 ~~thirty-one line page for such work, and twenty-five cents per page for each copy at~~  
14 the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, as funds become available, all such  
15 payments to be made from the criminal indigent transcript fund by the court.

16 \* \* \*

17 C.(1)(a) In the Sixteenth Judicial District, in all civil cases a fee ~~of two~~  
18 ~~dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page each for the~~  
19 ~~first and second copies for cases reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established  
20 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter who  
21 reports and transcribes the testimony and shall be retained by him as compensation  
22 in addition to the salary as provided herein.

23 \* \* \*

24 (2) In all criminal cases, except those involving indigent defendants, a fee  
25 ~~of two dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page each~~  
26 ~~for the first and second copies reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established  
27 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be paid to the court reporter who reports and  
28 transcribes the testimony and shall be retained by him as compensation in addition

1 to the salary as provided herein. The payment of fees in criminal cases involving  
2 indigent defendants shall be governed by the provisions of R.S. 13:4529.

3 \* \* \*

4 §972. Court Reporters for ~~the~~ Twenty-Fifth Judicial District

5 \* \* \*

6 D.(1) In all cases the reporter shall be paid a fee of ~~two dollars and seventy-~~  
7 ~~five cents for each original thirty-two line page transcribed and, where a copy is~~  
8 ~~requested by a litigant, shall furnish such copy and be paid a fee of twenty-five cents~~  
9 ~~for each page thereof~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. At the request  
10 of any of the parties to any proceedings, or at the order of a district judge, the court  
11 reporter shall transcribe all or part of the testimony or other matter taken down and  
12 shall furnish as many copies thereof as may be required by law for an appeal. The  
13 reporter, except when ordered by the judge, shall not be required to file or furnish  
14 any transcribed testimony until the transcription fee is paid. If those parties, or the  
15 judge, direct the original transcription, each party shall pay the expense of  
16 transcribing the testimony offered by him. No fee shall be allowed for transcribing  
17 matter other than testimony, objections and rulings thereon, bills, notes of evidence,  
18 and such other matters as may be ordered by the judge. All such fees shall be paid  
19 directly to the court reporter performing the service as additional compensation and  
20 shall be taxed as costs.

21 \* \* \*

22 §975. Court reporters and judges' secretaries for ~~the twenty-third judicial district~~

23 Twenty-Third Judicial District

24 \* \* \*

25 B. In civil cases which are reported and transcribed, a fee of ~~one dollar and~~  
26 ~~twenty-five cents per page~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be  
27 charged by and paid to the reporter. Provided, however, that no additional fee shall  
28 be charged for reporting or transcribing civil cases except when ordered for purposes  
29 of appeal of a decision of the court or when ordered by the court of appeal.

30 \* \* \*

§976. Thirty-Second Judicial District; additional court reporters; transcript fees

\* \* \*

C. The civil and criminal transcript fee for all court reporters in the Thirty-Second Judicial District ~~should not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents per thirty-one-line page and twenty-five cents per page copy~~ shall be set at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. These fees shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony, shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to his salary, and shall be taxed as costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken.

\* \* \*

§978. Court reporters for Thirtieth Judicial District

\* \* \*

H.(1)(a) In all civil cases, a fee ~~of one dollar and fifty cents per page and fifty cents per page additional for the first copy, thirty-five cents per page additional for copies reported and transcribed beyond the first copy~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter for reports and for transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to the salary as provided in this Section, and shall be taxed as costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken to be collected by the clerk of court, except in pauper cases. Payment of the fees shall be made primarily by the plaintiff immediately upon the transcription of the evidence, and the court reporter shall not be required to file the transcript with the clerk of court before payment.

\* \* \*

§979. Court reporters for ~~thirty-eighth judicial district~~ Thirty-Eighth Judicial District

\* \* \*

H. In civil and criminal cases which are reported and transcribed, a fee ~~of two dollars and twenty-five cents per page for originals, and twenty-five cents per page for each copy~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the reporter. In those civil cases which are reported but not

transcribed, one-half of the fee provided herein for originals shall be charged by and paid to the reporter. Such fees shall be retained by the reporter, as compensation in addition to the salary provided for in Subsection G of this Section, and shall be taxed as costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken.

\* \* \*

§980. Court reporters for ~~the~~ Thirty-Fourth Judicial District

\* \* \*

D.(1) In all cases on appeal, the reporter shall be paid a fee ~~not to exceed three dollars for each original page transcribed and where a copy is requested by a litigant, shall furnish such copy and be paid a fee of one dollar and fifty cents for each page thereof~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. At the request of any of the party proceedings, or at the order of a district judge, the court reporter shall transcribe all or part of the testimony or other matter taken down and shall furnish as many copies thereof as may be required by law for an appeal. For matters not on appeal, a litigant requesting a transcript of testimony or other matter transcribed shall enter into a private civil contract with the court reporter for the payment of fees applicable to those contracts. Such fees shall be in accordance with fees customarily charged in the judicial district for depositions. The reporter, except when ordered by the judge, shall not be required to file or furnish any transcribed testimony until the transcription fee is paid. If those parties, or the judge, direct the original transcription, each party shall pay the expense of transcribing the testimony offered by him. No fee shall be allowed for transcribing matter other than testimony, objections and rulings thereon, bills, notes of evidence, and such other matters as may be ordered by the judge. All such fees shall be paid directly to the court reporter performing the service as additional compensation and shall be taxed as costs.

\* \* \*

Section 2. R.S. 13:970(K) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 3. Act No. 126 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, Act No. 232 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, Act No. 52 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and Act No. 228 of the 2023 Regular

1 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana are hereby repealed in their entirety and shall never  
2 become effective.

3 Section 4. The provisions of Act No. 447 of the 2018 Regular Session of the  
4 Legislature of Louisiana enacting R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v) are hereby repealed in their entirety  
5 and shall never become effective.

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#### 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)]

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HB 155 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Muscarello

**Abstract:** Provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees in order to provide for a uniform fee schedule for all judicial district courts.

Present law provides that in all civil and criminal cases a fee not to exceed \$1.50 per 31-line page and \$.25 per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony.

Present law provides for varying court reporter fees for each of the judicial district courts: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides for a uniform court reporter fee schedule for all judicial district courts by providing that the fee not exceed \$5 per 32-line page transcript and up to \$2 per page per certified copy reported and transcribed. Proposed law further provides that fees may be set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges.

Proposed law provides that in all criminal indigent cases a fee not to exceed \$3.50 per 32-line page transcript and \$1 per page per certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Proposed law further provides that fees may be set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges.

Proposed law provides that the fees shall be retained by the court reporter as compensation, in addition to the salary as provided in present law, and shall be taxed as costs of the case in which such testimony is taken.

Proposed law provides that no fee shall be assessed or collected when providing an electronic copy of a previously transcribed transcript.

Proposed law provides that a salaried court reporter shall not, in any civil or criminal case, charge a sitting fee.

Proposed law provides that when an expedited transcript is requested, the following expedited fees may be charged:

- (1) For transcription within 24 hours, a court reporter may charge two times the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.

- (2) For transcription within 48 hours, a court reporter may charge an additional \$3 per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) For transcription within five days, a court reporter may charge an additional \$1 per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.

Present law (Acts 2017, No. 126; Acts 2018, No. 447; Acts 2020, No. 232; and Acts 2023, No. 52 and No. 228) provides for varying proposed fee increases for various judicial district courts, and each such increase is contingent upon approval by the Judicial Council, which has not been granted.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and (C), 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and (2), 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1); Repeals R.S. 13:970(K), Act No. 126 of the 2017 R.S., Act No. 232 of the 2020 R.S., Act Nos. 52 and 228 of the 2023 R.S., and the provisions of Act No. 447 of the 2018 R.S. enacting R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Change the number of lines per page from 31 to 32 lines per page.