

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana Judicial Council to conduct a study of court reporter per-page transcription rates in Louisiana and to study digital court reporting as an alternative to traditional reporting.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is facing a growing shortage of court reporters, driven by factors like retirement, uncompetitive salary rates, and a lack of new applicants for certification; and

WHEREAS, annual renewals of certifications for court reporters has decreased from one thousand two renewals in 2019 to nine hundred eighty-eight in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the average age of certified court reporters in Louisiana is fifty-five; and

WHEREAS, the current shortage of court reporters has led to delays in transcription services and backlogs of criminal and civil dockets; and

WHEREAS, some jurisdictions have been forced to pause all court operations or postpone matters due to court reporter unavailability, increasing docket backlogs; and

WHEREAS, salary rates for court reporters is within the discretion of the governing authority of the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, per-page rates charged by court reporters throughout the state varies from district to district; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law allows digital recording but requires a certified digital reporter to operate the digital equipment and to be present during all transcribable proceedings; and

WHEREAS, technologies in digital audio and video recording has advanced significantly in the last decade with an abundance of digital recording platforms available from various vendors; and

WHEREAS, technologies that are available as an enhancement to digital recording include artificial intelligence assisted transcription or "voice copy"; and

WHEREAS, some states have already transitioned to the use of digital recording in certain proceedings where a certified court reporter transcribes the proceedings from a digitally recorded and artificial intelligence assisted preliminary transcript draft; and

WHEREAS, several states, including Kentucky, Georgia, Colorado, North Dakota, and Indiana, have adopted digital recording procedures and no longer require a certified court reporter to be present during the court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, exploring the expansion of digital recordings in certain proceedings may help streamline proceedings, reduce delays, and ease the workload for existing court reporters, ultimately improving the efficiency of the legal system in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a recent legislative effort to standardize court reporter per-page rates revealed that more research is necessary to study the issue of current technology and the needs of the industry; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council is uniquely positioned to study per-page transcription rates statewide, the effectiveness and accuracy of the use of digital recording, including current usage in Louisiana and other states, and any added costs or cost savings associated with digital recording.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana Judicial Council to conduct a study on court reporting including all of the following:

(1) An evaluation of per page transcription rates in criminal and civil cases, including family court and juvenile proceedings, and to make an informed recommendation for a statewide standardized rate.

(2) An evaluation of the current use of digital court reporting in the courts of this state, particularly the courts serving as pilot programs for digital recording, including the cost, access, accuracy, and effectiveness of digital court reporting.

(3) An analysis of the use of digital court reporting in other states and the extent to which the digital process and artificial intelligence assisted transcription is utilized for the production of preliminary transcript drafts of proceedings.

(4) Recommendations on changes to statutes, rules, regulations, or standards regarding the use of digital court reporting as an alternative to traditional court reporting without the requirement for a certified court reporter to be present in the courtroom during the recording process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Judicial Council shall submit a report on the study, no later than March 1, 2026, together with any recommendations for legislation, to the governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to all members of the House Judiciary Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Judicial Council shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to the Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES