

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 179

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides relative to the retention of notes and recordings of court reporters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:511 and Code of Civil Procedure Article 372(C) and (D),
3 relative to notes and recordings retained by court reporters; to provide for ownership,
4 custody, and control of the notes and recordings of court reporters; to provide
5 relative to criminal and civil cases; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:511 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §511. Court reporters; retention and destruction of notes and recordings of criminal
9 cases

10 A. The court reporter shall retain indefinitely all notes and ~~tape~~ audio
11 recordings of a criminal case. However, if the record of the trial or other criminal
12 proceeding is fully transcribed, the court reporter shall retain all notes and ~~tape~~ audio
13 recordings which have been fully transcribed for a period of not less than two years
14 after transcription is completed. In criminal cases where all defendants are acquitted,
15 the court reporter need not retain the notes and ~~tape~~ audio recordings. Retention of
16 the tape and audio recordings are subject to the storage provisions provided in
17 Subsection B of this Section. The court reporter shall destroy any notes and ~~tape~~
18 audio recordings of any matter upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

19 B. The notes and ~~tape~~ audio recordings of any criminal case which are
20 retained by a court reporter pursuant to the provisions of this Section ~~shall be~~ are the

1 property of the court in which the case was heard. ~~The court reporter shall have the~~
2 ~~duty to retain and maintain all such notes and tape recordings pursuant to the~~
3 ~~provisions of this Section, although the notes and tape recordings shall remain the~~
4 ~~property of the court.~~ The court retains ownership of the recordings and notes, and
5 if a court reporter retires or leaves the employment of the court, all notes, audio
6 recordings, and other records of court proceedings shall remain in the custody and
7 control of the court and retained pursuant to applicable retention statutes and the
8 provisions of this Section.

9 Section 2. Code of Civil Procedure Article 372(C) and (D) are hereby amended and
10 reenacted to read as follows:

11 Art. 372. Court ~~reporter~~ reporters; retention and destruction of notes and recordings
12 of civil cases

13 * * *

14 C. The court reporter shall retain all notes and ~~tape~~ audio recordings in civil
15 cases for a period of not less than five years after the end of the trial. However, if
16 the record of the trial is fully transcribed, the court reporter shall retain all notes and
17 ~~tape~~ audio recordings which have been fully transcribed for a period of not less than
18 two years after transcription is completed. Retention of the tape and audio
19 recordings are subject to the storage provisions provided in Paragraph D of this
20 Article. The court reporter shall destroy any notes and ~~tape~~ audio recordings of any
21 matter upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

22 D. The notes and tape recordings of any civil case which are retained by a
23 court reporter pursuant to the provisions of this Article ~~shall be~~ are the property of
24 the court in which the case was heard. ~~The court reporter shall have the duty to~~
25 ~~retain and maintain all such notes and tape recordings pursuant to the provisions of~~
26 ~~this Article, although the notes and tape recordings shall remain the property of the~~
27 ~~court.~~ The court retains ownership of the recordings and notes, and if a court
28 reporter retires or leaves the employment of the court, all notes, audio recordings,
29 and other records of court proceedings shall remain in the custody and control of the

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court and retained pursuant to applicable retention statutes and the provisions of this
Article.
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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)]

HB 179 Original

2026 Regular Session

Muscarello

Abstract: Provides relative to retention of court reporter notes and recordings with respect to criminal and civil proceedings.

Present law provides for the retention and ownership of the notes, recordings, and other records of civil and criminal court matters.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the custody and control of the notes, recordings, and other records of the court proceedings shall remain with the court in the event a court reporter retires or leaves the employ of the court.

(Amends R.S. 15:511 and C.C.P. Art. 372(C) and (D))