

## 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.

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~~

\* \* \*

## 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))