

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides for digital and remote court reporting

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:981.1(C), relative to court reporter shortages; to provide relative to digital
3 and remote court reporting; to provide for digital transcription by court reporters; to
4 provide for virtual court reporting under certain circumstances; to provide for
5 certification requirements for digital and remote court reporting; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:981.1(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §981.1. Court reporter shortage

* * *

1 certified digital reporter. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, court
2 personnel may operate and monitor the digital recording system. Court personnel
3 operating the equipment are not required to be digitally certified but shall be trained
4 in best practices for digital recording controls and equipment monitoring.

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 188 Original

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Muscarello

Abstract: Authorizes certified digital reporters to remotely use virtual platforms for court proceedings.

Present law (R.S. 37:2556) requires that all official court reporters and deputy official court reporters employed as such in a court of record, be subject to the certification requirements of the certified shorthand reporter law and the regulatory authority of the Bd. of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the judges of a district court, acting en banc, to declare a shortage of available certified court reporters in their respective districts. Provides that upon such a declaration and for the duration of the shortage, a judge of that district may appoint as an official or deputy court reporter a court reporter who is properly licensed in another state.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a court reporter appointed pursuant to proposed law has the same duties, entitlements, and certification requirements prescribed in present law (R.S. 13:981.1(B)).

Proposed law permits the use of digital transcription platforms in all court proceedings.

Proposed law permits any court reporter certified in any method to virtually transcribe court records. Further provides that the court reporter is not required to be physically present during the proceedings to certify the proceedings.

Proposed law authorizes a court reporter who is a certified digital reporter to utilize a digital recording platform to remotely operate the recording equipment in any trial court.

(Adds R.S. 13:981.1(C))