
DIGEST

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HB 188 Original

2026 Regular Session

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))