

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and
3 (C), 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and
4 (2), 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1), and to repeal
5 R.S. 13:970(K), Act No. 126 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of
6 Louisiana, Act No. 232 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana,
7 Act No. 52 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, Act No. 228
8 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and the provisions of
9 Act No. 447 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana enacting
10 R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v), relative to court reporter fees; to provide for a statewide
11 revision of court reporter fees; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and (C),
14 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and (2),
15 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1) are hereby amended and
16 reenacted to read as follows:

17 §961. Court reporters; generally

18 * * *

19 F.(1)(a) ~~In all civil and criminal cases a fee not to exceed one dollar and fifty~~
20 ~~cents per thirty-one-line page and twenty-five cents per copy reported and~~
21 ~~transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and~~
22 ~~transcribed the testimony.~~ (i) In all civil and non-indigent criminal cases a fee not

1 to exceed five dollars per thirty-two-line page transcript and not to exceed two
2 dollars per page per certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and
3 paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Fees may be
4 set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges in the court for which the
5 reporter is employed.

6 (ii) In all criminal indigent cases a fee not to exceed three dollars and fifty
7 cents per thirty-two-line page transcript and not to exceed one dollar per page per
8 certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court
9 reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Fees may be set up to the
10 statutory amount by a majority of the judges in the court for which the reporter is
11 employed.

12 (iii) These fees shall be retained by him as compensation, in addition to the
13 salary as provided in Subsection E, and shall be taxed as costs of the case in which
14 such testimony is taken.

15 (b) An electronic copy may be furnished with a certified copy upon request.

16 (c) Salaried court reporters shall not, in any civil or criminal case, charge a
17 sitting fee.

18 (d) When an expedited transcript is requested, the following expedited fees
19 may be charged:

20 (i) For transcription within twenty-four hours, a court reporter may charge
21 two times the allowable per page rate set pursuant Subparagraph (a) of this
22 Paragraph.

23 (ii) For transcription within forty-eight hours, a court reporter may charge
24 an additional three dollars per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to
25 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

26 (iii) For transcription within five days, a court reporter may charge an
27 additional one dollar per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to
28 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

1 ~~(b) In the Ninth Judicial District such fee shall not exceed two dollars and~~
2 ~~fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

3 ~~(c) In the Seventeenth Judicial District such fee shall not exceed two dollars~~
4 ~~and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and fifty cents for each copied page.~~

5 ~~(d) In the Third Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the~~
6 ~~amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all testimony reported~~
7 ~~and transcribed in all cases.~~

8 ~~(e) In the Second, Fifth, and Eighteenth Judicial Districts, in all cases, except~~
9 ~~those to be filed in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for~~
10 ~~each page and each copied page of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be~~
11 ~~charged by and paid to the court reporter.~~

12 ~~(f) In the Twenty-Third Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed~~
13 ~~in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to~~
14 ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and each copied page~~
15 ~~of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court~~
16 ~~reporter.~~

17 ~~(g) In the Twenty-Eighth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~
18 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~
19 ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents nor~~
20 ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

21 ~~(h) In the Thirty-Fifth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~
22 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~
23 ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents nor~~
24 ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line page.~~

25 ~~(i) In the Twenty-First Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed~~
26 ~~in forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to~~
27 ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one-line page and each copied page~~
28 ~~of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court~~
29 ~~reporter.~~

1 (j) ~~In the Eighth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the~~
2 ~~amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases,~~
3 ~~which fee shall be not less than one dollar and fifty cents nor exceed two dollars and~~
4 ~~fifty cents per thirty-one line page and a fee not to exceed fifty cents per copy per~~
5 ~~page of transcribed testimony.~~

6 (k) ~~In the Fourth Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed in~~
7 ~~forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to~~
8 ~~exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one-line page and each copied page~~
9 ~~of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court~~
10 ~~reporter.~~

11 (l) ~~In the Sixth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall determine the~~
12 ~~amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases,~~
13 ~~which fee shall not exceed two dollars and fifty cents for each thirty-one line page~~
14 ~~and a fee not to exceed fifty cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony.~~

15 (m) ~~In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District, parish of Bossier, in all cases a fee~~
16 ~~determined by a majority of the judges for each page not to exceed two dollars and~~
17 ~~fifty cents for each thirty-one line page and fifty cents for each copied page of all~~
18 ~~testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter.~~

19 (n) ~~In the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court, a majority of the judges~~
20 ~~shall determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~
21 ~~testimony reported and transcribed in all cases.~~

22 (o) ~~In the Thirty-Sixth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~
23 ~~determine the amount of the fee which shall be paid to the court reporter for the~~
24 ~~transcription of each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases,~~
25 ~~which fee shall not be less than one dollar and fifty cents and shall not exceed two~~
26 ~~dollars and seventy-five cents per thirty-one-line page and the amount of the fee per~~
27 ~~copy of each page of transcribed testimony, which shall not exceed twenty-five~~
28 ~~cents.~~

1 ~~(p) In the Eleventh Judicial District, a majority of the judges en banc shall~~
2 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~
3 ~~testimony reported and transcribed in all cases in an amount not to exceed two~~
4 ~~dollars and seventy-five cents per page and in an amount not to exceed twenty-five~~
5 ~~cents per copy.~~

6 ~~(q) In the Thirty-Ninth Judicial District, a majority of the judges shall~~
7 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and~~
8 ~~transcribed in all cases, which fee shall not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents~~
9 ~~for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to exceed twenty-five cents per copy per~~
10 ~~page of transcribed testimony.~~

11 ~~(r) In the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District, a majority of the judges en banc~~
12 ~~shall determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~
13 ~~testimony reported and transcribed as required by law, which fee shall not exceed~~
14 ~~two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to~~
15 ~~exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony.~~

16 ~~(s) In the Thirty-Third Judicial District Court, in all civil and criminal~~
17 ~~appeals, a fee not to exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents per thirty-two-line~~
18 ~~page and twenty-five cents per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and~~
19 ~~be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. These fees~~
20 ~~shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to any other salary and shall be~~
21 ~~taxed as costs of the case in which such testimony is taken.~~

22 ~~(t) In the Thirty-Seventh Judicial District, the judge shall determine the~~
23 ~~amount to be paid for each page of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases,~~
24 ~~which fee shall not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line~~
25 ~~page and a fee not to exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed~~
26 ~~testimony.~~

27 ~~(u) In the Twentieth Judicial District Court, a majority of the judges shall~~

1 ~~determine the amount to be paid for each page and for each copied page of all~~
2 ~~testimony reported and transcribed in all cases.~~

3 * * *

4 §962. Court reporters for ~~the~~ First Judicial District

5 * * *

6 H. As compensation, each court reporter shall be paid a salary from the fund
7 hereinafter created of not less than one thousand seventy-five dollars per month, and
8 such additional amounts as are determined by a majority of the judges; plus an
9 amount ~~to be determined by a majority of the judges~~ at the rate established pursuant
10 to R.S. 13:961 for each ~~thirty-one line~~ thirty-two-line page and for each copied page
11 of all testimony reported and transcribed in all cases, said salary to be paid monthly
12 and other compensation as submitted for payment. ~~The length of the transcript page~~
13 ~~may be changed from thirty-one lines to twenty-five lines at the discretion of a~~
14 ~~majority of the court.~~ All recording and transcribing machines, typewriters, supplies,
15 and extra help shall be paid by such court reporters personally. Additional
16 compensation, recording and transcribing machines, supplies, and extra help may be
17 provided to the court reporters for work in criminal court as required and as ordered
18 by the majority of the judges, the cost thereof to be paid from the criminal court
19 fund, or indigent defender fund, any other available fund, or as otherwise provided
20 by law and as ordered by a majority of the judges.

21 * * *

22 §963. Court reporters for Thirteenth Judicial District

23 * * *

24 I.(1)(a) In all civil cases, a fee ~~of two dollars and twenty-five cents per page~~
25 ~~and twenty-five cents per copy of each page reported and transcribed~~ at the rate
26 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be charged by and paid to each court
27 reporter for reports and for transcribing the testimony.

28 (b) In criminal cases, a fee ~~not to exceed two dollars per page and twenty-~~
29 ~~five cents per copy of each page reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established

1 copy shall be furnished in cases appealable to the court of appeals; in cases
2 appealable to the supreme court the original and three copies shall be furnished. The
3 payment shall be made monthly to the court reporters upon presentation of an
4 itemized statement of the costs approved by any of the judges of the district. The
5 payments to be made by the governing authority under the foregoing provisions shall
6 not exceed the gross sum of fifteen hundred dollars for any one year to each of the
7 court reporters.

8 * * *

9 C. All judgments rendered in cases, in which the party availing himself of
10 the provisions of ~~R.S. 13:4525 through 13:4529~~ R.S. 13:4529 shall be cast for costs,
11 together with a statement of such costs shall be recorded by the clerk of court in the
12 mortgage records of the parish of East Baton Rouge. Such judgments when recorded
13 shall operate as a judicial mortgage in favor of the governing authority of East Baton
14 Rouge parish for the amount of costs paid to the court reporters. The governing
15 authority of East Baton Rouge parish, at its expense, may have this judgment and
16 statement of costs (or a certified copy thereof) recorded in the mortgage records of
17 any other parish or parishes, and when recorded the judgment shall operate as a
18 judicial mortgage in favor of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge parish for
19 the amount of costs paid.

20 * * *

21 §967. Twenty-Fourth Judicial District; court reporters; civil filing fees

22 * * *

23 C.(1) In all cases on appeal, the reporter shall be paid a fee ~~not to exceed two~~
24 ~~dollars and fifty cents for each original page transcribed~~ at the rate established
25 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 and, when a copy is requested by a litigant, shall furnish
26 such copy and be paid a fee not to exceed ~~one dollar for each page thereof~~ the rate
27 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, except that in criminal cases on appeal by
28 indigent defendants, no more than a ~~total of two dollars and seventy-five cents for~~
29 ~~each page transcribed~~ the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, including all

1 copies necessary for appeal, shall be charged to and paid from any fund established
 2 by law for the payment of expenses incurred in the defense of indigent persons in
 3 criminal proceedings. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to make the
 4 governing authority of the parish of Jefferson responsible for the expenses or costs
 5 associated with the preparation of transcripts for an indigent defendant in a criminal
 6 proceeding, including but not limited to bills of exceptions, trials, motions, hearings
 7 on writs, or any other costs associated with an appeal in a criminal proceeding.

* * *

9 §969. Court reporters for ~~the~~ Twenty-Ninth Judicial District Court

* * *

11 G. In all civil cases, a fee ~~determined by a majority of the judges en banc for~~
 12 ~~each original page and for each copied page of testimony, which fee shall not exceed~~
 13 ~~two dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to~~
 14 ~~exceed twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony~~ at the rate
 15 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court
 16 reporter for reports and for transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him
 17 as compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein, and shall be taxed as
 18 costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken to be collected by the clerk of court,
 19 except in pauper cases; payment of the fees shall be made primarily by the appellant
 20 immediately upon the transcription of the evidence, and the court reporter shall not
 21 be required to file the transcript with the clerk of court before payment. Should the
 22 appellant fail or refuse to make such payment, the appellee or any other party to the
 23 suit may make the same and have it assessed as cost. Even though counsel may
 24 attempt to procure a transcript of the entire record by alleging that the entire record
 25 is necessary to support a motion for a new trial, the trial judge shall not order the
 26 entire transcript to be typed unless he deems it indispensable to the record of the
 27 motion or proceedings.

* * *

1 I. The court reporters shall record such criminal proceedings as may be
 2 required by law or as ordered by the court. No fee shall be charged for taking
 3 evidence on assignments of error, motions, or other pleadings in criminal cases,
 4 unless approved by the presiding judge. In all criminal cases where a transcript is
 5 required by law, a fee ~~determined by a majority of the judges en banc for each~~
 6 ~~original page and each copied page of testimony, which fee shall not exceed two~~
 7 ~~dollars and seventy-five cents for each thirty-two-line page and a fee not to exceed~~
 8 ~~twenty-five cents per copy per page of transcribed testimony~~ at the rate established
 9 pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court reporters for
 10 reporting and transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him as
 11 compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein. When so approved, any
 12 such payment may be made from the criminal court cost fund. In such cases,
 13 however, only properly designated portions of the record shall be transcribed.

14 * * *

15 §970. Court reporter for ~~Twenty-sixth~~ Twenty-Sixth Judicial District for Webster
 16 Parish

17 * * *

18 L. Additionally, in civil and criminal cases the Webster Parish Police Jury
 19 shall be paid ~~two dollars and fifty cents per thirty-one-line legal size page and fifty~~
 20 ~~cents per page~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 for copies for all
 21 testimony transcribed by the court reporters. This charge shall be taxable as court
 22 costs and shall be advanced to the court reporter assigned to the case for delivery to
 23 the Webster Parish Police Jury for deposit in the clerk of court reporter's fund.

24 * * *

25 §971. Sixteenth and Twenty-Seventh Judicial Districts; additional court reporters;
 26 fees charged by court reporters; indigent transcript fund

27 * * *

28 B.(1)(a) In the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District, in all civil cases a fee ~~of~~
 29 ~~three dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page~~ at the
 30 rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 for copies reported and transcribed shall be

1 charged by and paid to the court reporter who reports and transcribes the testimony
2 and shall be retained by him as compensation in addition to the salary as provided
3 herein.

4 * * *

5 (2) In all criminal cases, except those involving indigent defendants, a fee
6 ~~of three dollars and fifty cents per page for the original, and fifty cents for each copy~~
7 ~~thereafter reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961
8 shall be paid to the court reporter who reports and transcribes the testimony and shall
9 be retained by him as compensation in addition to the salary as provided herein. The
10 payment of fees in criminal cases involving indigent defendants shall be governed
11 by the provisions of R.S. 13:4529.

12 * * *

13 (7) Court reporters shall be paid ~~three dollars and fifty cents per~~
14 ~~thirty-one-line page for such work, and twenty-five cents per page for each copy~~ at
15 the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, as funds become available, all such
16 payments to be made from the criminal indigent transcript fund by the court.

17 * * *

18 C.(1)(a) In the Sixteenth Judicial District, in all civil cases a fee ~~of two~~
19 ~~dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page each for the~~
20 ~~first and second copies for cases reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established
21 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter who
22 reports and transcribes the testimony and shall be retained by him as compensation
23 in addition to the salary as provided herein.

24 * * *

25 (2) In all criminal cases, except those involving indigent defendants, a fee
26 ~~of two dollars and fifty cents per page for the original and fifty cents per page each~~
27 ~~for the first and second copies reported and transcribed~~ at the rate established
28 pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be paid to the court reporter who reports and
29 transcribes the testimony and shall be retained by him as compensation in addition

1 to the salary as provided herein. The payment of fees in criminal cases involving
2 indigent defendants shall be governed by the provisions of R.S. 13:4529.

3 * * *

4 §972. Court Reporters for ~~the~~ Twenty-Fifth Judicial District

5 * * *

6 D.(1) In all cases the reporter shall be paid a fee of ~~two dollars and seventy-~~
7 ~~five cents for each original thirty-two line page transcribed and, where a copy is~~
8 ~~requested by a litigant, shall furnish such copy and be paid a fee of twenty-five cents~~
9 ~~for each page thereof~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. At the request
10 of any of the parties to any proceedings, or at the order of a district judge, the court
11 reporter shall transcribe all or part of the testimony or other matter taken down and
12 shall furnish as many copies thereof as may be required by law for an appeal. The
13 reporter, except when ordered by the judge, shall not be required to file or furnish
14 any transcribed testimony until the transcription fee is paid. If those parties, or the
15 judge, direct the original transcription, each party shall pay the expense of
16 transcribing the testimony offered by him. No fee shall be allowed for transcribing
17 matter other than testimony, objections and rulings thereon, bills, notes of evidence,
18 and such other matters as may be ordered by the judge. All such fees shall be paid
19 directly to the court reporter performing the service as additional compensation and
20 shall be taxed as costs.

21 * * *

22 §975. Court reporters and judges' secretaries for ~~the twenty-third judicial district~~

23 Twenty-Third Judicial District

24 * * *

25 B. In civil cases which are reported and transcribed, a fee of ~~one dollar and~~
26 ~~twenty-five cents per page~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961 shall be
27 charged by and paid to the reporter. Provided, however, that no additional fee shall
28 be charged for reporting or transcribing civil cases except when ordered for purposes
29 of appeal of a decision of the court or when ordered by the court of appeal.

30 * * *

1 §976. Thirty-Second Judicial District; additional court reporters; transcript fees

2 * * *

3 C. The civil and criminal transcript fee for all court reporters in the Thirty-
4 Second Judicial District ~~should not exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents per~~
5 ~~thirty-one-line page and twenty-five cents per page copy~~ shall be set at the rate
6 established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. These fees shall be charged by and be paid to
7 the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony, shall be retained by
8 him as compensation in addition to his salary, and shall be taxed as costs of the suit
9 in which the testimony is taken.

10 * * *

11 §978. Court reporters for Thirtieth Judicial District

12 * * *

13 H.(1)(a) In all civil cases, a fee ~~of one dollar and fifty cents per page and~~
14 ~~fifty cents per page additional for the first copy, thirty-five cents per page additional~~
15 ~~for copies reported and transcribed beyond the first copy~~ at the rate established
16 pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter for reports
17 and for transcribing the testimony which shall be retained by him as compensation
18 in addition to the salary as provided in this Section, and shall be taxed as costs of the
19 suit in which the testimony is taken to be collected by the clerk of court, except in
20 pauper cases. Payment of the fees shall be made primarily by the plaintiff
21 immediately upon the transcription of the evidence, and the court reporter shall not
22 be required to file the transcript with the clerk of court before payment.

23 * * *

24 §979. Court reporters for ~~thirty-eighth judicial district~~ Thirty-Eighth Judicial
25 District

26 * * *

27 H. In civil and criminal cases which are reported and transcribed, a fee ~~of~~
28 ~~two dollars and twenty-five cents per page for originals, and twenty-five cents per~~
29 ~~page for each copy~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961, shall be charged
30 by and paid to the reporter. In those civil cases which are reported but not

1 transcribed, one-half of the fee provided herein for originals shall be charged by and
2 paid to the reporter. Such fees shall be retained by the reporter, as compensation in
3 addition to the salary provided for in Subsection G of this Section, and shall be taxed
4 as costs of the suit in which the testimony is taken.

5 * * *

6 §980. Court reporters for ~~the~~ Thirty-Fourth Judicial District

7 * * *

8 D.(1) In all cases on appeal, the reporter shall be paid a fee ~~not to exceed~~
9 ~~three dollars for each original page transcribed and where a copy is requested by a~~
10 ~~litigant, shall furnish such copy and be paid a fee of one dollar and fifty cents for~~
11 ~~each page thereof~~ at the rate established pursuant to R.S. 13:961. At the request of
12 any of the party proceedings, or at the order of a district judge, the court reporter
13 shall transcribe all or part of the testimony or other matter taken down and shall
14 furnish as many copies thereof as may be required by law for an appeal. For matters
15 not on appeal, a litigant requesting a transcript of testimony or other matter
16 transcribed shall enter into a private civil contract with the court reporter for the
17 payment of fees applicable to those contracts. Such fees shall be in accordance with
18 fees customarily charged in the judicial district for depositions. The reporter, except
19 when ordered by the judge, shall not be required to file or furnish any transcribed
20 testimony until the transcription fee is paid. If those parties, or the judge, direct the
21 original transcription, each party shall pay the expense of transcribing the testimony
22 offered by him. No fee shall be allowed for transcribing matter other than testimony,
23 objections and rulings thereon, bills, notes of evidence, and such other matters as
24 may be ordered by the judge. All such fees shall be paid directly to the court reporter
25 performing the service as additional compensation and shall be taxed as costs.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. R.S. 13:970(K) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

28 Section 3. Act No. 126 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana,
29 Act No. 232 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, Act No. 52 of the
30 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and Act No. 228 of the 2023 Regular

1 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana are hereby repealed in their entirety and shall never
2 become effective.

3 Section 4. The provisions of Act No. 447 of the 2018 Regular Session of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana enacting R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v) are hereby repealed in their entirety
5 and shall never become effective.

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 155 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Muscarello

Abstract: Provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees in order to provide for a uniform fee schedule for all judicial district courts.

Present law provides that in all civil and criminal cases a fee not to exceed \$1.50 per 31-line page and \$.25 per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony.

Present law provides for varying court reporter fees for each of the judicial district courts: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides for a uniform court reporter fee schedule for all judicial district courts by providing that the fee not exceed \$5 per 32-line page transcript and up to \$2 per page per certified copy reported and transcribed. Proposed law further provides that fees may be set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges.

Proposed law provides that in all criminal indigent cases a fee not to exceed \$3.50 per 32-line page transcript and \$1 per page per certified copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. Proposed law further provides that fees may be set up to the statutory amount by a majority of the judges.

Proposed law provides that the fees shall be retained by the court reporter as compensation, in addition to the salary as provided in present law, and shall be taxed as costs of the case in which such testimony is taken.

Proposed law provides that an electronic copy may be furnished with a certified copy upon request.

Proposed law provides that a salaried court reporter shall not, in any civil or criminal case, charge a sitting fee.

Proposed law provides that when an expedited transcript is requested, the following expedited fees may be charged:

- (1) For transcription within 24 hours, a court reporter may charge two times the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.

- (2) For transcription within 48 hours, a court reporter may charge an additional \$3 per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) For transcription within five days, a court reporter may charge an additional \$1 per page over the allowable per page rate set pursuant to proposed law.

Present law (Acts 2017, No. 126; Acts 2018, No. 447; Acts 2020, No. 232; and Acts 2023, No. 52 and No. 228) provides for varying proposed fee increases for various judicial district courts, and each such increase is contingent upon approval by the Judicial Council, which has not been granted.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 13:961(F)(1), 962(H), 963(I)(1), 964(H), 964.1(B), 966(A) and (C), 967(C)(1), 969(G) and (I), 970(L), 971(B)(1)(a), (2), and (7) and (C)(1)(a) and (2), 972(D)(1), 975(B), 976(C), 978(H)(1)(a), 979(H), and 980(D)(1); Repeals R.S. 13:970(K), Act No. 126 of the 2017 R.S., Act No. 232 of the 2020 R.S., Act Nos. 52 and 228 of the 2023 R.S., and the provisions of Act No. 447 of the 2018 R.S. enacting R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Change the number of lines per page from 31 to 32 lines per page.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete the provision which provided that no fee shall be assessed or collected when an electronic copy of the transcript is provided.
2. Add a provision that provides that an electronic copy of the transcript shall be furnished with a certified copy upon request.