

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 142

BY SENATOR CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COURTS. Authorizes the utilization of court reporters licensed in another state in certain circumstances. (8/1/23)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:981.1, relative to district courts; to provide for the appointment of court reporters in certain instances; to provide for qualifications, duties, and responsibilities; to provide for fees; to provide for bond; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:981.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§981.1. Court reporter shortage

A. Notwithstanding R.S. 37:2556, the judges of a district court, acting en banc, may declare a shortage of available certified court reporters in their district. 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.

B. A court reporter appointed in accordance with Subsection A of this Section shall:

(1) Have the same duties and responsibilities as provided for other official and deputy reporters in this Part for the specific district court.

- 1 **(2) Be entitled to the same fees paid in the same manner as provided for**
 2 **other official and deputy reporters in this Part for the specific district court.**
- 3 **(3) Be paid a salary, take an oath, and provide a bond as provided for**
 4 **other reporters in this Part for the specific district court and Chapter 1 of this**
 5 **Title.**
- 6 **(4) Perform duties under the supervision and direction of the district**
 7 **court judge to whom the reporter is assigned.**
- 8 **(5) Complete a reciprocal application for certification with the Louisiana**
 9 **Board of Examiners for Certified Shorthand Reporters in accordance with the**
 10 **provisions of R.S. 37:2554.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

SB 142 Reengrossed

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Carter

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 Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

Proposed law provides an exception to present law. Authorizes the judges of a district court, acting en banc, to declare a shortage of available certified court reporters in their district. 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 provides that a court reporter appointed pursuant to proposed law shall:

- (1) Have the same duties and responsibilities as provided for other official and deputy reporters in that court district.
- (2) Be entitled to the same fees paid in the same manner as other official and deputy reporters in that court district.
- (3) Be paid an equivalent salary, take an oath, and provide a bond as other official and deputy reporters in that court district.
- (4) Perform duties under the supervision and direction of the district court judge to whom he is assigned.
- (5) Complete a reciprocal application for certification with the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Certified Shorthand Reporters in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 37:2554.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 13:981.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds requirements to complete a reciprocal application for certification for a court reporter appointed pursuant to proposed law.