

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
House Bill No. 1101 By Representative Broadwater

June 2, 2014

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 1101 by Representative Broadwater, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments proposed by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2014, be adopted.
2. That Legislative Bureau Amendment No. 1 proposed by the Legislative Bureau and adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2014, be adopted.
3. That Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 proposed by Senator Amedee and adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2014, be rejected.
4. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments proposed by Senator Murray and adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2014, be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Chris Broadwater

Senator Jean-Paul J. Morrell

Representative Jeffery "Jeff" J. Arnold

Senator "Jody" Amedee

Representative J. Rogers Pope

Senator Edwin R. Murray

 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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 1101 by Representative Broadwater

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Provides relative to court reporters

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Provide for the definition of a "court reporting firm".
2. Authorize a court reporter to accept employment from a firm if the reporter receives certification that the firm has no prohibited employment or contractual relationship between the party litigant and the firm and the reporter has no actual knowledge of a prohibited relationship.
3. Retain present law which prohibits the filing of the original deposition in the record and requiring that the deposition be made available to all other parties in the matter for inspection and copying.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Repealed provisions relative to the requirement that the party taking a deposition give prompt notice to all other parties of its availability for inspection or copying.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Proposed law defines "court reporting firm" as any person, company, corporation, organization, partnership, group, limited liability entity, commercial enterprise, or other entity doing business in Louisiana that is owned or controlled by a person who is not licensed by the board to practice court reporting and that engages others or itself engages in any aspect of the practice of court reporting as defined by statute or by rule, including such activities as arranging for or engaging the services of a licensed court reporter, reporting, recording, taking, producing, transcribing, delivering, or invoicing depositions, court proceedings, sworn statement, or other similar preservation of testimony, or any other activities as identified in rules promulgated by the board.

Proposed law further provides that a lawyer admitted to practice in Louisiana, a group of lawyers, or a law firm, or the clerical or administrative employees of such, are not to be considered a "court reporting firm".

Proposed law provides that a court reporting firm is considered a "person" and a "reporter" for the purposes of present law.

Present law provides that a deposition shall be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths, who is not an employee or attorney of any of the parties, or otherwise interested in the outcome of the case. Provides that "an employee" includes a person who has a contractual relationship with a party to provide shorthand reporting or other court reporting services.

Proposed law provides that if a licensed Louisiana court reporter has no actual knowledge of a prohibited employment or contractual relationship between a party litigant and a court

reporting firm, and if the reporter receives certification that the firm has no prohibited contractual or employment relationship with a party litigant, the reporter may accept employment from the firm and shall not be considered an "employee" for purposes of present law.

Proposed law requires the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters to establish by rule the procedures and representations by which a court reporting firm shall provide the necessary certification to court reporters.

Present law authorizes the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, on its own motion or if requested in writing by verified complaint, to investigate the actions of any person applying for, holding, or claiming to hold any certificate, or any person practicing court reporting without first having obtained a certificate.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that at the commencement of any such investigation, notice shall be provided to any person subject to the investigation and shall provide the nature and subject of the investigation.

(Amends R.S. 37:2557(B); Adds R.S. 37:2555(G) and 2556(D);)