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## DIGEST

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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.