

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 429

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER AND SENATOR GUILLORY

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Exempts certain court reporters from certification requirements

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A), relative to court
3 reporters; to provide for qualifications; to provide for definitions; to provide for the
4 appointment of court reporters; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A) are hereby amended and
7 reenacted to read as follows:

8 §2554. Qualifications; examinations; certificates

9 * * *

10 B. The board may, at its discretion, waive regular examination of any person
11 duly holding a comparable C.S.R. certificate from another state and desiring to move
12 to Louisiana as a verbatim reporter. Any person duly holding a certification in
13 electronic reporting from a recognized authority as defined in R.S. 37:2555(B), or
14 any person employed as an official court reporter or deputy official court reporter by
15 a court of record utilizing electronic or audio recording as a method of official court
16 reporting on or before December 31, 2010, shall be certified as long as they remain
17 employed by that court as an official or deputy official court reporter.

18 * * *

19 D. The board shall in no way restrict the use of electronic equipment to
20 certificate holders hereunder in the performance of their duties, but shall exclude the

1 use of all electronic recording equipment, except stenomask and digital recording
2 equipment, to all applicants at the time and place of examination.

3 * * *

4 §2555. Definitions

5 * * *

6 B. The "practice of court reporting" is defined as the making of a verbatim
7 record of any oral court proceeding, sworn statement, public hearing, deposition, or
8 related proceeding by the use of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or
9 machine writing, stenomask voice recording, computer assisted technology,
10 electronic or audio recording, or other means. A "certified court reporter" is a person
11 certified to engage in the practice of court reporting as provided for in R.S. 37:2554,
12 including the practice of shorthand reporting, or certified to engage in the practice
13 of electronic reporting by the American Association of Electronic Reporters and
14 Transcribers, or any other national or state recognized association or organization
15 approved by the board and authorized or licensed to provide education and
16 certification for professionals engaged in electronic reporting and transcribing a
17 verbatim record of oral court proceedings, and which is approved by the judge or
18 court employing the services of the court reporter.

19 * * *

20 §2556. Appointment of reporter

21 A. Official court reporters and deputy official court reporters employed as
22 such in a court of record, as defined in R.S. 37:2555(C) and (D), shall be subject to
23 the certification requirements of this Chapter, except as provided in R.S. 37:2554(B),
24 and shall be subject to the regulatory authority of the board during their employment
25 or appointment as court reporters for purposes of either official and general or
26 freelance reporting. However, on or before December 31, 1992, the board will
27 accept, upon payment of a fee fixed by the board, applications for certification
28 without examination from any person furnishing due proof that he or she was
29 employed as an official court reporter or deputy official court reporter, as defined in

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 R.S. 37:2555(C) and (D), as of September 1, 1991. No person employed as an
 2 official court reporter or deputy official court reporter, as defined in R.S. 37:2555(C)
 3 and (D), shall engage in the practice of general or freelance reporting, as defined in
 4 R.S. 37:2555(E), unless certified by the board to engage in such reporting outside of
 5 the court where such person is employed and on the payroll of the court to act as
 6 official court reporter or deputy official court reporter.

7 * * *

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)]

Chandler

HB No. 429

Abstract: Provides for qualifications of court reporters.

Present law (R.S. 37:2551 et seq.) provides that persons employed as official court reporters and deputy court reporters of a court of record shall be subject to the certification requirements applicable to certified court reporters.

Proposed law provides that any person employed as a court reporter or deputy court reporter on or before Dec. 31, 2010, by a court which uses electronic or audio recording equipment shall be certified as long as he remains employed by that court in such capacity.

Present law excludes electronic recording equipment, except for stenomasks, for use in the examination for certification.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes the use of digital recording equipment for examination purposes.

Proposed law adds electronic or audio recording, as well as the practice of electronic reporting, to eligible methods to practice court reporting.

Present law defines "certified court reporter" as a person certified in the practice of court reporting by the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

Proposed law includes in the definition of "certified court reporter" persons certified to engage in the practice of electronic reporting by the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers.

Proposed law provides that no person employed as an official court reporter or deputy court reporter shall engage in the practice of general or freelance reporting, unless certified to do so.

(Amends R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill.

1. Provided that any person employed as a court reporter or deputy court reporter on or before Dec. 31, 2010, by a court using electronic or audio recording equipment shall be certified as long as he remains employed by that court in such capacity.
2. Authorized the use of digital recording equipment by applicants during the certification examination.