

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)

1 AN ACT

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

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

8 **§981.1. Court reporter shortage**

9 **A. Notwithstanding R.S. 37:2556, the judges of a district court, acting en**
10 **banc, may declare a shortage of available certified court reporters in their**
11 **district. Upon such a declaration and for the duration of the shortage, a judge**
12 **of that district may appoint as an official or deputy court reporter a court**
13 **reporter who is properly licensed in another state.**

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

16 **(1) Have the same duties and responsibilities as provided for other**
17 **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.**

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

DIGEST

SB 142 Engrossed

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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.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 13:981.1)