

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 200

BY: SMITH of the SENATE

and

STEIDLEY of the HOUSE

AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS; AMENDING 20 O.S. 1981,
SECTIONS 1501, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 1, CHAPTER
105, O.S.L. 1984, 1503, 1506, AS AMENDED BY SECTION
2, CHAPTER 204, O.S.L. 1989, AND 1508, AS AMENDED
BY SECTION 4, CHAPTER 204, O.S.L. 1989 (20 O.S.
SUPP. 1990, SECTIONS 1501, 1506 AND 1508), WHICH
RELATE TO COURT REPORTERS; RE-CREATING THE STATE
BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF OFFICIAL SHORTHAND REPORTERS;
AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT TO APPROVE SYSTEMS
AND METHODS FOR REPORTING TESTIMONY; PROHIBITING
CERTAIN PERSONS FROM USING SHORTHAND REPORTER
SEALS; CLARIFYING STATUTORY LANGUAGE; MODIFYING
STATUTORY REFERENCES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE;
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 1981, Section 1501, as
amended by Section 1, Chapter 105, O.S.L. 1984 (20 O.S. Supp. 1990,
Section 1501), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1501. There is hereby re-created, to continue until
July 1, ~~1990~~ 1996 in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma

Sunset Law, the State Board of Examiners of Official Shorthand Reporters which shall consist of five (5) members, all of whom shall be certified shorthand reporters. The members shall be persons who have been, for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment to the Board, residents of this state and certified shorthand reporters. All members shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and shall serve in staggered terms, each for a period of five (5) years. No member may serve more than one term in succession. The Board shall elect from its membership a chairman and a secretary. Three members shall constitute a quorum. The Board may adopt a seal for its official use. All actions of the Board shall be supervised by the Supreme Court and be subject to approval by the Court.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 1981, Section 1503, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1503. ~~a.~~ A. Every applicant who seeks to be examined for enrollment as a certified shorthand reporter shall prove to the satisfaction of the Board that he is of legal age, meets the requisite standards of ethical fitness and has at least a high school education or its equivalent.

~~b.~~ B. Every applicant for enrollment as a certified shorthand reporter shall be required, on examination, to demonstrate proficiency in reporting testimony and proceedings at a speed of not less than two hundred (200) words per minute in taking a question-and-answer type dictation only, and no other type, and in preparing an accurate transcription thereof that is reasonably free from spelling errors. Any examination or test given shall be approved by the Supreme Court. The Board may not increase or decrease such minimum speed requirement, by rule or otherwise.

~~c.~~ C. As used in ~~paragraph b hereof~~ subsection B of this section, the phrase "proficiency in reporting testimony and proceedings" means proficiency in verbatim reporting by use of any

generally recognized system of symbols or abbreviations written with pen or pencil, stenotype or similar machines, or such other method as may be ~~from time to time~~ approved by the Supreme Court.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 1981, Section 1506, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 204, O.S.L. 1989 (20 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 1506), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1506. The Board shall charge the following fees:

~~a.~~ 1. Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) for an examination fee for a bona fide resident of the state;

~~b.~~ 2. One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for an examination fee for a nonresident of the state;

~~c.~~ 3. One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for an application to enroll a certified shorthand reporter without an examination; and

~~d.~~ 4. Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) as ~~an bi-annual~~ biennial renewal fee to be paid by all persons enrolled as certified or licensed shorthand reporters.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 1981, Section 1508, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 204, O.S.L. 1989 (20 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 1508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1508. Every person enrolled as a certified shorthand reporter shall be entitled to use the abbreviation C.S.R. after his name and shall receive from the Board, without additional charge, a metal seal with his name and the words "Oklahoma Certified Shorthand Reporter". Every person enrolled as a licensed shorthand reporter shall be entitled to use the abbreviation L.S.R. after his name and shall receive from the Board, without additional charge, a metal seal with his name and the words "Oklahoma Licensed Shorthand Reporter". ~~Acting court~~ Court reporters holding a temporary certificate shall not be allowed the use of a seal. The determination of the format and construction of the seal shall rest with the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Supreme Court shall determine the procedures to be used in the

distribution of all shorthand reporter seals. Certified shorthand reporters shall be authorized to issue affidavits in respect to their regular duties, to subpoena witnesses for depositions, administer oaths and affirmations, and to take depositions or other sworn statements, with authority equal to that of a notary public. Licensed shorthand reporters shall have the same authority while employed as official court reporters.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 5th day of March, 1991.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of

_____, 1991.

Speaker of the House of Representatives