ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 691

By: Smith of the Senate

and

Askins of the House

An Act relating to court reporters; amending 20 O.S. 1991, Section 1502, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1998, and Section 3, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1998 (20 O.S. Supp. 1998, Sections 1502 and 1503.1), which relate to the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters and continuing education for court reporters; conforming language; requiring certain shorthand reporters to complete certain continuing education requirement annually; modifying requirement; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 1991, Section 1502, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1998 (20 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 1502), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1502. A. The State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters shall:

1. Conduct preliminary investigations to determine the qualifications of applicants seeking to attain the status of certified shorthand reporters;

2. Conduct at least once a year, at a place and time to be published by ample notice as directed by the Supreme Court, an examination of those persons who seek to attain the status of certified shorthand reporter. The Board may also give examinations for a certificate of proficiency and for a certificate of merit;

3. Recommend to the Supreme Court for official enrollment as certified shorthand reporters those persons who, on their examination, have established the requisite proficiency as set forth in Section 1503 of this title;

4. Conduct proceedings, on reasonable notice, the object of which is to recommend to the Supreme Court the suspension, cancellation, revocation or reinstatement of the enrollment of a certified or licensed shorthand reporter or of the status of any acting shorthand reporter, regular or temporary, on the following grounds:

a. a final conviction of a criminal offense which indicates a clear and rational likelihood that the reporter will not properly discharge the responsibilities of persons licensed under this act or Section 106.3B of this title,

b. misrepresentation in obtaining licensure,

c. any violation of~~,~~ or noncompliance with any rule or directive of the Supreme Court,

d. fraud, gross incompetence, or gross or habitual neglect of duty,

e. engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting using a method for which the reporter is not certified,

f. engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting while certification is suspended,

g. nonpayment of renewal dues, or

h. failure to annually complete at least ~~two (2)~~ four (4) hours of continuing education approved by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters ~~which relates to Oklahoma court rules and procedures~~;

5. Adopt, with the approval of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, examination standards and rules governing enrollment, discipline, suspension, cancellation and revocation proceedings and any other matter within the Board's cognizance; and

6. Keep a current roll of certified shorthand reporters and a file on all disciplined certified shorthand reporters, official or unofficial, regular or temporary.

B. In all hearings or investigations on revocation, cancellation or suspension of enrollment, each Board member shall be empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, and take evidence anywhere in the state, after giving reasonable notice to the party whose status is sought to be affected.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1998 (20 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 1503.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1503.1 Every ~~certified~~ official shorthand reporter and every court reporter temporarily employed by the district court, Workers' Compensation Court, or Corporation Commission shall annually complete at least ~~four (4)~~ two (2) hours of continuing education approved by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters which relates to Oklahoma court rules and procedures.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

Passed the Senate the 17th day of May, 1999.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 1999.

Speaker of the House of Representatives