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March 23, 2021

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1152

By: Osburn of the House

and

Garvin of the Senate

An Act relating to court reporters; amending 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1503, which relates to examination for enrollment of certified shorthand reporters; removing certain preliminary proficiency requirements; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1503, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1503. A. Every applicant who seeks to be examined for enrollment as a certified shorthand reporter shall prove to the satisfaction of the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters that he or she:

1. Is of legal age;
2. Meets the requisite standards of ethical fitness; and
3. Has at least a high school education or its equivalent; ~~and~~
4. ~~Possesses a minimum level of court reporting proficiency~~

~~which would allow the applicant to meet the examination requirements~~

~~established in paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section. An applicant may satisfy such requirements by obtaining verification through a court reporting school official of the applicant's level of proficiency, as outlined by the test application; by passing a preliminary proficiency examination, which has been approved by the Board; or by proving that the applicant has previously held any state or national shorthand reporting certificate or license.~~

B. The examination for certification in one or more authorized methods of shorthand reporting consists of two parts, designated Part 1 and Part 2 as follows:

1. Part 1 consists of the test as authorized by the Supreme Court consisting of the following requirements: demonstrated proficiency in reporting testimony and proceedings at a speed of not more than two hundred (200) words per minute in taking a question-and-answer type dictation and at a speed of not more than one hundred eighty (180) words per minute in taking literary materials which shall be designed to test the ability of an applicant to accurately prepare a transcript of testimony and proceedings that is reasonably free from spelling errors. The Board may not increase or decrease such minimum speed requirement, by rule or otherwise; and

2. Part 2 is the Oklahoma Written Knowledge test which consists of not less than twenty-five multiple choice questions relating to Oklahoma law and court rules, duties of certified shorthand reporters, and general court procedure. The examination shall be

1 approved by the Supreme Court. A person who has tested with the
2 Board and successfully completed the written knowledge portion of
3 the examination shall be allowed to retain the credit for that
4 portion for two (2) years from the date passed, and shall not be
5 required to retake that portion during the two-year period.

6 C. An applicant who is academically dishonest when taking any
7 authorized examination is disqualified and may not take the
8 examination again until two (2) years have elapsed from the date of
9 the examination at which the applicant was disqualified.

10 D. A certification issued under this section must be for one or
11 more of the following methods of shorthand reporting:

12 1. Written shorthand;

13 2. Machine shorthand; or

14 3. Any other method of shorthand reporting authorized by the
15 Supreme Court.

16 E. No person may engage in shorthand reporting in this state
17 unless the person is a licensed or certified shorthand reporter or
18 otherwise authorized by law or the Supreme Court.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
21 March 23, 2021 - DO PASS
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