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April 13, 2022

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 4118

By: Hasenbeck, Smith, Boles,  
and Humphrey of the House

and

Taylor and Burns of the  
Senate

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[ courts - court reporter salaries - secretary -
bailiff salaries - effective date -
emergency ]
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~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.9, is amended to read as follows:

Section 106.9 A. Each court reporter regularly engaged by the district court, the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims, or the Corporation Commission shall be paid a salary pursuant to the salary schedule established by the annual appropriation for the district courts and Corporation Commission and in accordance with the job description for the position to which appointed. ~~On October 1, 2021, each court reporter shall receive a one-time stipend of One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)~~ For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, each court reporter shall receive an annual salary of Fifty-three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000.00).

1       B. In addition to their base salaries, official court reporters  
2 who are certified or licensed shorthand reporters and those acting  
3 shorthand reporters pursuant to paragraph c of Section 106.3B of  
4 this title shall be paid annually the sum of Four Hundred Dollars  
5 (\$400.00) for each year of service to the district court, the  
6 Workers' Compensation Court, the Workers' Compensation Court of  
7 Existing Claims and the Corporation Commission, with a maximum of  
8 twenty (20) years of service only to be used for the purpose of  
9 longevity, not to exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per  
10 year, payable monthly. For the purpose of payment for longevity,  
11 "years of service" is defined as all years served as a certified or  
12 licensed court reporter in the district court, the Workers'  
13 Compensation Court and the Corporation Commission after June 30,  
14 1978. Such longevity payments shall begin on July 1 of each year  
15 following completion of one (1) year's service as defined herein.

16       C. In addition to their base salaries, official court reporters  
17 who are certified shorthand reporters shall be paid the following:

18       1. The sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per  
19 year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a  
20 Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), as recognized by the State  
21 Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters. To qualify as  
22 a RPR, an official court reporter shall have a proficiency level in  
23 reporting testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than two  
24 hundred twenty-five (225) words per minute in taking a question-and-

1 answer-type dictation, two hundred (200) words per minute in taking  
2 a jury charge and one hundred eighty (180) words per minute in  
3 taking literary material, shall pass a Written Knowledge Test with a  
4 score of at least seventy percent (70%), all as determined by an  
5 examination recognized by the Board, and shall complete thirty (30)  
6 hours of continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the  
7 date of recognition;

8       2. The sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per  
9 year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a  
10 Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), as recognized by the State Board of  
11 Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters. To qualify as a RMR, an  
12 official court reporter shall have a proficiency level in reporting  
13 testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than two hundred  
14 sixty (260) words per minute in taking a question-and-answer-type  
15 dictation, two hundred forty (240) words per minute in taking a jury  
16 charge and two hundred (200) words per minute in taking literary  
17 material, shall pass a Written Knowledge Test with a score of at  
18 least seventy percent (70%), all as determined by an examination  
19 recognized by the Board, and shall complete thirty (30) hours of  
20 continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the date of  
21 recognition;

22       3. The sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per  
23 year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a  
24 Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR), as recognized by the State Board

1 of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, and who completes  
2 thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle  
3 commencing at the date of recognition;

4 4. The sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per  
5 year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a  
6 Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), as recognized by the State Board  
7 of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, and who completes  
8 thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle  
9 commencing at the date of recognition; or

10 5. Any official court reporter who is the holder of more than  
11 one certification shall be compensated in the additional amounts  
12 specified in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection for each  
13 certification up to a maximum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00)  
14 per year over and above the reporter's base salary, payable monthly.

15 D. Court reporters temporarily employed by the district court,  
16 Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims, or Corporation  
17 Commission shall be compensated by the court fund of the court which  
18 they serve at a rate to be set by such court. In addition, court  
19 reporters temporarily employed pursuant to this subsection who are  
20 required by the terms of their employment to travel outside their  
21 county of residence shall receive reimbursement for mileage actually  
22 and necessarily traveled to and from the place of attendance at a  
23 rate not to exceed the rate of reimbursement specified in the State  
24 Travel Reimbursement Act for state employees. Any travel

1 reimbursement shall be paid from the court fund of the court where  
2 the service of the temporarily employed court reporter is provided.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 125, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 125. A. In all counties of the state there is created  
6 the office of secretary-bailiff for district judges and associate  
7 district judges, with each such secretary-bailiff to be appointed by  
8 order of the district judge or associate district judge to serve at  
9 the will of the appointing judge as an unclassified employee of the  
10 state exempt from the provisions of the Oklahoma Merit System of  
11 Personnel Administration. The Chief Justice shall approve by  
12 administrative directive the number and assignments of secretary-  
13 bailiffs in all counties of the state. Each secretary-bailiff shall  
14 be paid a salary pursuant to the salary schedule established by the  
15 annual appropriation for the district courts and in accordance with  
16 the job description for the position to which appointed. For fiscal  
17 year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, each secretary-bailiff  
18 shall receive an annual salary of Forty-two Thousand Dollars  
19 (\$42,000.00). In every county of the state each district judge and  
20 each associate district judge may by order appoint additional  
21 necessary court personnel subject to the approval of the Chief  
22 Justice. A part-time bailiff shall be paid out of the court fund of  
23 the county where appointed at the rate set by administrative  
24 directive for each hour that such person actually attends the court

1 and performs services, or a pro rata fraction thereof for less than  
2 an hour of service. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
3 each district judge and associate district judge may contract with  
4 the sheriff of the county to allow a deputy sheriff to provide  
5 bailiff service to the court.

6 B. With the approval of the presiding judge, a special judge  
7 may appoint a secretary-bailiff or other personnel in accordance  
8 with the administrative order of the Chief Justice.

9 C. No judge shall engage more than one full-time secretary-  
10 bailiff at any given time except only during the progress of a jury  
11 trial, when a part-time bailiff may be engaged subject to the  
12 approval of the Chief Justice. In the latter event, no more than  
13 one additional bailiff shall be engaged to take charge of the jury.  
14 The costs of meals and lodging of bailiffs ordered to keep a jury  
15 together during the process of a trial or after the jury retires for  
16 deliberation shall be lawfully paid from the court fund.

17 D. A district judge who sits regularly in more than one county  
18 may employ only one full-time secretary-bailiff in the judicial  
19 district of the judge, and in any other county of the district the  
20 judge may engage a bailiff only on a part-time basis when such judge  
21 sits in the county as a judge pursuant to the procedures set forth  
22 by the Chief Justice in the administrative directive. The cost of  
23 the operation of the office of a district judge of a multi-county  
24 judicial district, including the purchase of equipment and supplies,

1 may be apportioned among the counties of that judicial district, or  
2 appropriate division of that district, based upon the percentage of  
3 revenue collected by the courts of the district.

4 E. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall develop and  
5 promulgate job descriptions, salary schedules and time-keeping forms  
6 for part-time bailiff personnel. The Chief Justice of the Oklahoma  
7 Supreme Court, through the Office of the Administrative Director of  
8 the Courts, shall promulgate rules for the compensation for overtime  
9 for all secretary-bailiff and part-time bailiff personnel employed.

10 F. Persons employed by a county that does not meet the  
11 requirements of Section 951 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
12 and who serve as full-time secretary-bailiffs or full-time bailiffs  
13 shall be eligible to participate in the state retirement system and  
14 state insurance programs and any other benefits as are provided to  
15 state employees in the unclassified service. All part-time bailiff  
16 personnel shall be compensated by the local court fund.

17 G. On October 1, 1989, the position of full-time bailiff shall  
18 be redesignated as the position of secretary-bailiff in accordance  
19 with the job descriptions, salary schedules, and procedures approved  
20 by the Chief Justice. Additional secretary-bailiff positions shall  
21 be created as funding and employee positions are available.  
22 Counties shall be allowed to provide additional support personnel to  
23 the judges sitting in such counties to the extent that funding is  
24 available.

1 H. Any secretary-bailiff, who is CLEET-certified as a basic  
2 peace officer, shall have and exercise all the powers and authority  
3 of a peace officer. The Office of the Administrative Director of  
4 the Courts shall promulgate rules which prescribe the duties for all  
5 CLEET-certified secretary-bailiffs. The provisions of this  
6 subsection will not entitle a CLEET-certified secretary-bailiff to  
7 participate in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

9 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
14 April 13, 2022 - DO PASS  
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