

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1396

By: Hasenbeck of the House

and

Floyd of the Senate

An Act relating to court reporters; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.9, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 271, O.S.L. 2022 (20 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 106.9), which relates to court reporter salaries; modifying definition; clarifying language; authorizing payment of annual equipment allowance to certain official court reporters; directing payment of certain allowance; increasing amounts of certain additional payments; increasing maximum cumulative amount of certain additional payments; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Court reporters

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.9, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 271, O.S.L. 2022 (20 O.S. Supp. 2022, 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. 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).

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

C. In addition to their base salaries, official court reporters eligible for longevity payments pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be paid an annual equipment allowance of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00). Payments for such allowance shall be made on July 1 of each year following completion of the first year of service as defined in subsection B of this section.

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

1. The sum of ~~One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)~~ Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), as recognized by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters. To qualify as a RPR, an official court reporter shall have a proficiency level in reporting testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than two hundred twenty-five (225) words per minute in taking a question-and-answer-type dictation, two hundred (200) words per minute in taking a jury charge and one hundred eighty (180) words per minute in taking literary material, shall pass a Written Knowledge Test with a score of at least seventy percent (70%), all as determined by an examination recognized by the Board, and shall complete thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition;

2. The sum of ~~One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)~~ Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), as recognized by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters. To qualify as a RMR, an official court reporter shall have a proficiency level in reporting testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than two hundred sixty (260) words per minute in taking a question-and-answer-type dictation, two hundred forty (240) words per minute in taking a jury charge and two hundred (200) words per minute in taking literary material, shall pass a Written Knowledge Test with a score of at least seventy percent (70%), all as determined by an examination recognized by the Board, and shall complete thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition;

3. The sum of ~~One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)~~ Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR), as recognized by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, and who completes thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition;

4. The sum of ~~One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)~~ Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year, payable monthly, to any official court reporter who is a Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), as recognized by the State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, and who completes thirty (30) hours of continuing education per three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition; or

5. Any official court reporter who is the holder of more than one certification shall be compensated in the additional amounts specified in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection for each certification up to a maximum of ~~Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00)~~ Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per year over and above the reporter's base salary, payable monthly.

~~D.~~ E. Court reporters temporarily employed by the district court, Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims, or Corporation Commission shall be compensated by the court fund of the court which they serve at a rate to be set by such court. In addition, court reporters temporarily employed pursuant to this subsection who are required by the terms of their employment to travel outside their county of residence shall receive reimbursement

for mileage actually and necessarily traveled to and from the place of attendance at a rate not to exceed the rate of reimbursement specified in the State Travel Reimbursement Act for state employees. Any travel reimbursement shall be paid from the court fund of the court where the service of the temporarily employed court reporter is provided.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or 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 House of Representatives the 16th day of May, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of April, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____