

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1396
Version:	FA1
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Hasenbeck
Date:	3/22/2023
Impact:	See analysis below

Research Analysis

Floor Amendment 1 to HB1396 allows the Administrative Director of the Courts to use available court funds to acquire court reporter equipment. The amendment provides that lost court reporter equipment must be replaced within 30 days without the use of state funds.

As amended, HB1396 increases the additional pay received by a court reporter for a registered professional, diplomat, merit or real-time reporter credential from \$1500 to \$2000. The maximum additional pay that a court reporter can receive for holding all four credentials is also increased from \$6000 to \$8000. The measure also allows the Administrative Director of the Courts to use available court funds to acquire court reporter equipment. Any lost court reporter equipment must be replaced within 30 days without the use of state funds.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

Fiscal Analysis

This measure increases court reporter salaries. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provided the following analysis:

Forty-eight full-time certified shorthand reporters within the AOC would benefit from the increase to a certificate, some holding multiple certificates. This would create an annual fiscal impact of \$37,000.00 for the 74 separate certificates that are held among the 48 certified shorthand reporters.

The Workers Compensation Court of Existing Claims (WCCEC), Workers Compensation Commission (WCC), and Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) employ a small number of court reporters which may benefit from the increase to certificates but the combined impact to those agencies is expected to be minimal. Given the information from each agency, the expected fiscal impact to the state is at least \$37,000.00 from the change to certificates.

The floor amendment to this measure allows court funds to be used for the acquisition and maintenance of court reporter equipment. There are 192 court reporter positions, not all of which are currently filled. Purchasing and maintaining the specialized equipment has an estimated cost of \$2,750,000 which the agencies do not believe they have the budget to absorb. The AOC would also be responsible for inventory and storage, the logistics and costs for which are being determined. The first year of this measure being in affect would bear these upfront costs, and the ongoing purchase of new equipment and maintenance of existing equipment would be a lesser amount. This information will be updated if and when the agency is able to provide it. Given the

above information of possible budgetary increases needed to cover the raise in salaries and purchases and maintenance of the equipment, this measure will likely have a fiscal impact of around \$3,000,000.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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