

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3585

6 By: Harris

7  
8 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to court reporters; amending 20 O.S.  
10 2021, Section 106.4, as amended by Section 1, Chapter  
11 100, O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 106.4),  
12 which relates to duties of court reporters; expanding  
13 means by which a court reporter can record; removing  
14 prohibition on certification of persons who rely  
15 exclusively upon a steno-mask; clarifying use of  
16 proceedings electronically recorded when no court  
17 reporter is available; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section  
18 106.9, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 263,  
19 O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 106.9),  
20 which relates to court reporter compensation; adding  
21 certifications to additional compensation payments;  
22 removing certain continuing education requirement;  
23 authorizing Supreme Court to direct continuing  
24 education requirements; suspending additional  
compensation payment if there is a lapse in  
certification; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section 1503,  
which relates to examination of court reporters;  
changing methods for which a certification can be  
issued; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.4, as  
2 amended by Section 1, Chapter 100, O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp. 2025,  
3 Section 106.4), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 106.4. A. 1. The court reporter shall make a full  
5 reporting by means of ~~stenographic hand, steno-mask~~ stenomask or,  
6 stenographic machine notes, or any other method of reporting  
7 authorized by the Supreme Court, or a combination thereof, of all  
8 proceedings, including the statements of counsel and the court and  
9 the evidence, in trials and other judicial proceedings to which the  
10 court reporter is assigned by the appointing judge unless excused by  
11 the judge who is trying the case with the consent of the parties to  
12 the action. ~~Nothing herein contained shall be construed to~~  
13 ~~authorize the certification of persons as certified shorthand~~  
14 ~~reporters who rely exclusively upon the steno-mask for reporting~~  
15 ~~judicial proceedings, except as provided by law.~~ A refusal of the  
16 court to permit or to require any statement to be taken down by the  
17 court reporter or transcribed after being taken down, upon the same  
18 being shown by affidavit or other direct and competent evidence, to  
19 the Supreme Court, or other appellate court, shall constitute a  
20 denial of due process of law. The court reporter may use an  
21 electronic instrument as a supplementary device.

22 2. In any trial, hearing, or proceedings, if no court reporter  
23 is available to the assigned judge either in person or remotely:  
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1 a. the judge before whom the matter is being heard may  
2 order the proceedings electronically recorded and a  
3 trial, hearing, or proceedings may proceed without the  
4 necessity of a court reporter being present. ~~Provided~~  
5 ~~that if an official transcript is ordered then it~~  
6 ~~shall be prepared by the official court reporter~~ Any  
7 party may order a transcript from the proceedings  
8 electronically recorded; provided that, only  
9 transcripts prepared by an official court reporter may  
10 be used in any subsequent trial, hearing, proceeding,  
11 or appeal, or

12 b. with approval of the judge, the parties may stipulate  
13 to the use of a freelance reporter and share the cost.  
14 If ordered, the transcript shall be prepared by the  
15 approved reporter and shall be considered the official  
16 transcript for all purposes.

17 B. 1. Upon request of either party in a civil or criminal  
18 case, the reporter shall transcribe the proceedings in a trial or  
19 other judicial proceeding, or so much thereof as may be requested by  
20 the party, certify to the correctness of the transcript, and deliver  
21 the same in accordance with the rules of the Supreme Court. The fee  
22 for an original transcript shall be set by the Supreme Court. Two  
23 copies of the original transcript shall be furnished without  
24 additional charge. Each page shall be at least twenty-five lines to

1 the page and typed no fewer than nine characters to the typed inch.  
2 Each page shall be no more than double spaced and the margin on the  
3 left side of the page shall be no more than one and one-half (1 1/2)  
4 inches and the margin on the right side of the page shall be no more  
5 than one-half (1/2) inch from the edge of the paper. The format for  
6 all transcripts shall be prescribed by the Supreme Court. The fees  
7 for making the transcript shall be paid in the first instance by the  
8 party requesting the transcript and shall be taxed as costs in the  
9 suit.

10 2. When the judge on his or her own motion orders a transcript  
11 of the reporter's notes, the judge may direct the payment of charges  
12 and the taxation of the charges as costs in such manner as the court  
13 deems appropriate. In a criminal action, if the defendant shall  
14 present to the judge an affidavit that the defendant intends in good  
15 faith to take an appeal in the case and that a transcript of the  
16 reporter's notes is necessary to enable the defendant to prosecute  
17 the appeal, and that he or she has not the means to pay for the  
18 transcript, the court, upon finding that there is reasonable basis  
19 for the averment, shall order the transcript made at the expense of  
20 the district court fund. The format preparation, delivery and  
21 filing of transcripts to be used in civil and criminal appeals may  
22 be regulated by the Supreme Court.

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1 C. The court reporter shall file his or her records of the  
2 evidence and the proceedings taken in any case with the clerk of the  
3 court in which the case was tried.

4 D. To the extent that it does not substantially interfere with  
5 the court reporter's other official duties, the judge by whom a  
6 reporter is employed or to whom he or she is assigned may assign a  
7 reporter to secretarial or clerical duties arising out of official  
8 court operations.

9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.9, as  
10 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 263, O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp.  
11 2025, Section 106.9), is amended to read as follows:

12 Section 106.9. A. Each court reporter regularly engaged by the  
13 district court, the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims,  
14 or the Corporation Commission shall be paid a salary pursuant to the  
15 salary schedule established by the annual appropriation for the  
16 district courts and Corporation Commission and in accordance with  
17 the job description for the position to which appointed. For fiscal  
18 year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, each court reporter shall  
19 receive an annual salary of Fifty-three Thousand Dollars  
20 (\$53,000.00).

21 B. In addition to their base salaries, official court reporters  
22 who are certified or licensed shorthand reporters and those acting  
23 shorthand reporters pursuant to paragraph 3 of Section 106.3B of  
24 this title shall be paid annually the sum of Four Hundred Dollars

1 (\$400.00) for each year of service to the district court, the  
2 Workers' Compensation Court, the Workers' Compensation Court of  
3 Existing Claims and the Corporation Commission, with a maximum of  
4 twenty (20) years of service only to be used for the purpose of  
5 longevity, not to exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per  
6 year, payable monthly. For the purpose of payment for longevity,  
7 "years of service" is defined as all years served as a certified or  
8 licensed court reporter in the district court, the Workers'  
9 Compensation Court, the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing  
10 Claims and the Corporation Commission after June 30, 1978.  
11 Longevity payments shall be made on July 1 of each year following  
12 completion of the first year of service as defined herein.

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

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

21 1. The sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year,  
22 payable monthly, to any official court reporter who ~~is a~~ holds one  
23 or more of the following certifications:  
24

- 1           a.   Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), as recognized  
2           by the ~~State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand~~  
3           ~~Reporters. To qualify as a RPR, an official court~~  
4           ~~reporter shall have a~~ National Court Reporters  
5           Association,
- 6           b.   Certified Verbatim Reporter, as recognized by the  
7           National Verbatim Reporters Association,
- 8           c.   Certified Verbatim Reporter - Stenotype (CVR-S), as  
9           recognized by the National Verbatim Reporters  
10           Association, or
- 11           d.   other certifications authorized by the Supreme Court  
12           that demonstrate a proficiency level in reporting  
13           testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than  
14           two hundred twenty-five (225) words per minute in  
15           taking a question-and-answer-type dictation, two  
16           hundred (200) words per minute in taking a jury  
17           charge, and one hundred eighty (180) words per minute  
18           in taking literary material. In addition, the  
19           individual shall pass a the Oklahoma Written Knowledge  
20           Test with a score of at least seventy percent (70%)  
21           ~~all as determined by an examination recognized by the~~  
22           ~~Board,~~ and shall complete ~~thirty (30) hours of~~  
23           continuing education ~~per three-year cycle commencing~~  
24

1 ~~at the date of recognition~~ as directed by the Supreme  
2 Court;

3 2. The sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year,  
4 payable monthly, to any official court reporter who ~~is a~~ holds one  
5 or more of the following certifications:

6 a. Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), as recognized by the  
7 ~~State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand~~  
8 ~~Reporters. To qualify as a RMR, an official court~~  
9 ~~reporter shall have~~ National Court Reporters  
10 Association,

11 b. Certificate of Merit (CM) or Certificate of Merit  
12 Stenotype (CM-S), as recognized by the National  
13 Verbatim Reporters Association, or

14 c. other certifications authorized by the Supreme Court  
15 that demonstrate a proficiency level in reporting  
16 testimony and proceedings of a speed of not less than  
17 two hundred sixty (260) words per minute in taking a  
18 question-and-answer-type dictation, two hundred forty  
19 (240) words per minute in taking a jury charge, and  
20 two hundred (200) words per minute in taking literary  
21 material, In addition, the individual shall pass a  
22 the Oklahoma Written Knowledge Test with a score of at  
23 least seventy percent (70%), ~~all as determined by an~~  
24 ~~examination recognized by the Board,~~ and shall

1 complete ~~thirty (30) hours of~~ continuing education per  
2 ~~three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition~~  
3 as directed by the Supreme Court;

4 3. The sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year,  
5 payable monthly, to any official court reporter who ~~is~~ holds a  
6 certification as a Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR), as recognized  
7 by the ~~State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters,~~  
8 and who ~~completes thirty (30) hours of continuing education per~~  
9 ~~three-year cycle commencing at the date of recognition~~ National  
10 Court Reporters Association;

11 4. The sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year,  
12 payable monthly, to any official court reporter who ~~is a~~ holds one  
13 or more of the following certifications:

14 a. Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), as recognized by  
15 the ~~State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand~~  
16 ~~Reporters, and who completes thirty (30) hours of~~  
17 ~~continuing education per three-year cycle commencing~~  
18 ~~at the date of recognition~~ National Court Reporters  
19 Association, or

20 b. Realtime Verbatim Reporter - Master (RVR-M) or  
21 Realtime Verbatim Reporter - Master - Stenotype (RVR-  
22 M-S), as recognized by the National Verbatim Reporters  
23 Association; or

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

6           E. In the event of a lapse in a court reporter's certification,  
7 compensation for that certification as provided for in subsection D  
8 of this section which is over and above the court reporter's salary  
9 shall be suspended until the certification is renewed or reinstated.  
10 Compensation shall not be paid to a court reporter for any period  
11 during which the court reporter's certification was not in good  
12 standing.

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

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 1503, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

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

- 7 1. Is of legal age;
- 8 2. Meets the requisite standards of ethical fitness; and
- 9 3. Has at least a high school education or its equivalent.

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

- 13 1. Part 1 consists of the test as authorized by the Supreme  
14 Court consisting of the following requirements: demonstrated  
15 proficiency in reporting testimony and proceedings at a speed of not  
16 more than two hundred (200) words per minute in taking a question-  
17 and-answer-type dictation and at a speed of not more than one  
18 hundred eighty (180) words per minute in taking literary materials  
19 which shall be designed to test the ability of an applicant to  
20 accurately prepare a transcript of testimony and proceedings that is  
21 reasonably free from spelling errors. The Board may not increase or  
22 decrease such minimum speed requirement, by rule or otherwise; and
- 23 2. Part 2 is the Oklahoma Written Knowledge ~~test~~ Test which  
24 consists of not less than twenty-five multiple choice questions

1 relating to Oklahoma law and court rules, duties of certified  
2 shorthand reporters, and general court procedure.

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

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

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

15 1. ~~Written shorthand;~~

16 ~~2. Machine shorthand;~~

17 2. Stenomask shorthand; or

18 3. Any other method of shorthand reporting authorized by the  
19 Supreme Court.

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

23 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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