

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 429

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Exempts certain court reporters from certification requirements

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A), relative to court  
3 reporters; to provide for qualifications; to provide for definitions; to provide for the  
4 appointment of court reporters; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A) are hereby amended and  
7 reenacted to read as follows:

8 §2554. Qualifications; examinations; certificates

9 \* \* \*

10 B. The board may, at its discretion, waive regular examination of any person  
11 duly holding a comparable C.S.R. certificate from another state and desiring to move  
12 to Louisiana as a verbatim reporter. Any person duly holding a certification in  
13 electronic reporting from a recognized authority as defined in R.S. 37:2555(B), or  
14 any person employed by a court of record utilizing electronic or audio recording as  
15 a method of official court reporting on or before December 31, 2010, shall be exempt  
16 from the certification provisions of this Chapter as long as they remain employed by  
17 that court as an official or deputy official court reporter.

18 \* \* \*

19 D. The board shall in no way restrict the use of electronic equipment to  
20 certificate holders hereunder in the performance of their duties, ~~but shall exclude the~~

1 use of all electronic recording equipment, ~~except stenomask, to all applicants at the~~  
2 ~~time and place of examination.~~

3 \* \* \*

4 §2555. Definitions

5 \* \* \*

6 B. The "practice of court reporting" is defined as the making of a verbatim  
7 record of any oral court proceeding, sworn statement, public hearing, deposition, or  
8 related proceeding by the use of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or  
9 machine writing, stenomask voice recording, computer assisted technology,  
10 electronic or audio recording, or other means. A "certified court reporter" is a person  
11 certified to engage in the practice of court reporting as provided for in R.S. 37:2554,  
12 including the practice of shorthand reporting, or certified to engage in the practice  
13 of electronic reporting by the American Association of Electronic Reporters and  
14 Transcribers, or any other national or state recognized association or organization  
15 approved by the board and authorized or licensed to provide education and  
16 certification for professionals engaged in electronic reporting and transcribing a  
17 verbatim record of oral court proceedings, and which is approved by the judge or  
18 court employing the services of the court reporter.

19 \* \* \*

20 §2556. Appointment of reporter

21 A. Official court reporters and deputy official court reporters employed as  
22 such in a court of record, as defined in R.S. 37:2555(C) and (D), shall be subject to  
23 the certification requirements of this Chapter, except as provided in R.S. 37:2554(B),  
24 and shall be subject to the regulatory authority of the board during their employment  
25 or appointment as court reporters for purposes of either official and general or  
26 freelance reporting. However, on or before December 31, 1992, the board will  
27 accept, upon payment of a fee fixed by the board, applications for certification  
28 without examination from any person furnishing due proof that he or she was  
29 employed as an official court reporter or deputy official court reporter, as defined in

1 R.S. 37:2555(C) and (D), as of September 1, 1991. No person employed as an  
 2 official court reporter or deputy official court reporter, as defined in R.S. 37:2555(C)  
 3 and (D), shall engage in the practice of general or freelance reporting, as defined in  
 4 R.S. 37:2555(E), unless certified by the board to engage in such reporting outside of  
 5 the court where such person is employed and on the payroll of the court to act as  
 6 official court reporter or deputy official court reporter.

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### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Chandler

HB No. 429

**Abstract:** Provides for qualifications of court reporters.

Present law (R.S. 37:2551 et seq.) provides that persons employed as official court reporters and deputy court reporters of a court of record shall be subject to the certification requirements applicable to certified court reporters.

Proposed law provides that persons employed by a court that utilizes electronic or audio recording as the method of court reporting on or before Dec. 31, 2010, shall be exempt from the certification provisions of the court reporting statutes.

Present law excludes electronic recording equipment as a permissible method for use in the examination.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Proposed law adds electronic or audio recording, as well as the practice of electronic reporting, to eligible methods to practice court reporting provided for in R.S. 37:2555.

Proposed law provides that no person employed as an official court reporter or deputy court reporter shall engage in the practice of general or freelance reporting, unless certified to do so.

(Amends R.S. 37:2554(B) and (D), 2555(B), and 2556(A))