



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 844

LCO No. 4035



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LEGAL TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS AND
THE FEES CHARGED BY COURT REPORTERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Court reporting" means the verbatim transcription of the
4 spoken word in a legal proceeding by stenographic or electronic
5 means;

6 (2) "Court reporter" means any individual or business entity, foreign
7 or domestic, engaged in the business of court reporting within this
8 state;

9 (3) "Official court reporter" means a stenographer hired by or
10 appointed by a state or federal authority to make a verbatim written or
11 electronic transcription of the spoken word during a court proceeding,
12 Workers' Compensation Commission proceeding or other official state
13 or federal administrative proceeding;

14 (4) "Final transcript" means the final transcribed version of the
15 spoken word at a legal proceeding created by a court reporter
16 irrespective of whether such transcribed version is the original or a
17 copy; and

18 (5) "Legal proceeding" includes, but is not limited to: (A) A
19 deposition, whether held within or outside of this state, for a
20 proceeding pending in this state and irrespective of whether such
21 deposition is conducted in person or by remote electronic means, (B)
22 an arbitration proceeding, (C) a mediation proceeding, and (D) any
23 similar proceeding incident to an inchoate or pending legal matter.

24 (b) Any final transcript produced by a court reporter, except an
25 official court reporter, for a legal proceeding within this state shall
26 meet the following "Transcript Format Guidelines" promulgated by the
27 National Court Reporters Association, as amended from time to time:

28 (1) Each page of a final transcript shall contain no fewer than
29 twenty-five typed lines on standard paper eight and one-half by eleven
30 inches in size;

31 (2) Each page of a final transcript shall have no fewer than nine or
32 ten characters per typed inch;

33 (3) The left-hand margin of the each page of a final transcript shall
34 be set at not more than one and three-quarter inches;

35 (4) The right-hand margin of each page of a final transcript shall be
36 set at not more than three-eighths of an inch;

37 (5) Each question and answer shall begin on a separate line;

38 (6) Each question and answer shall begin no more than five spaces
39 from the left-hand margin and the statement following a question or
40 answer shall begin no more than five spaces from the left-hand
41 margin;

42 (7) Any carryover question and answer line shall begin at the left-

43 hand margin;

44 (8) Any colloquy shall begin no more than fifteen spaces from the
45 left-hand margin and any carryover line of a colloquy shall begin at the
46 left-hand margin;

47 (9) Quoted material shall begin no more than fifteen spaces from the
48 left-hand margin and any carryover line of quoted material shall begin
49 no more than ten spaces from the left-hand margin; and

50 (10) Any parenthetical or exhibit marking shall begin no more than
51 fifteen spaces from the left-hand margin and any carryover line shall
52 begin no more than fifteen spaces from the left-hand margin.

53 (c) No court reporter, except an official court reporter producing a
54 transcript for a legal proceeding within this state, shall charge any
55 other party to the legal proceeding more for a final transcript than the
56 amount that is charged to the hiring party for the final transcript,
57 excluding ancillary attendance and other fees or additional services
58 requested and charged to the hiring party. Services that a party may
59 request of a court reporter at an increased fee include, but are not
60 limited to, expedited delivery of a transcript, daily copy of a transcript,
61 streaming text or video. If additional services are requested by any
62 party, these services shall be offered at the same or lower rate to all
63 parties to the legal proceeding, irrespective of which party hired the
64 court reporter. A court reporter, except an official court reporter, shall
65 charge the same rates for final transcripts and other services to all
66 parties to a legal proceeding irrespective of who hired the court
67 reporter. A court reporter, upon receiving a written request from a
68 party for an invoice for services rendered, shall provide such invoice to
69 the requesting party no later than thirty days after the date of receipt of
70 the request.

71 (d) Nothing in this section shall prevent a court reporter from
72 charging a nonhiring party a lower rate for a copy of a final transcript
73 or other service.

74 (e) Any violation of the provisions of this section by a court reporter
75 shall constitute an unfair trade practice under chapter 735a of the
76 general statutes.

77 (f) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to
78 an official court reporter appointed by the judges of the Superior Court
79 pursuant to chapter 874 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To standardize legal transcript requirements and the fees charged by court reporters.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]