House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 806

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7220

House of Representatives, April 29, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COSTS TO OBTAIN TRANSCRIPTS FOR PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED BEFORE PUBLIC AGENCIES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-200 of the general statutes;

(2) "Party" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-166 of the general statutes;

(3) "Transcript" means the official written record of a public agency proceeding, or any part thereof, including, but not limited to, testimony and arguments of counsel, produced by a stenographer; and

(4) "Transcript page" means a page consisting of twenty-seven double-spaced lines on paper eight and one-half by eleven inches in size, if printed, with sixty spaces available per line, on paper or stored in an electronic medium that is retrievable in a perceivable form.

(b) Any recording or stenographic record of the proceedings before a public agency shall be transcribed on the request of any party. The cost of any copy or transcript of such recording or record shall be charged against the party requesting it. A stenographer may charge any party two dollars and forty cents for each transcript page that is requested and transcribed from the official record of a proceeding before a public agency, provided such rate may only be charged once to the party making the request. Any public agency requesting a transcript of the proceedings before the public agency shall be responsible for the costs of obtaining such transcript and may not charge, or otherwise seek reimbursement from, any party to the proceedings for such costs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Various State Agencies	App Fund - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: App Fund=All Appropriated Funds

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which requires the copies of recordings or transcription of certain records be provided at the cost of the requesting party, results in a potential minimal cost to the state and municipalities to the extent they are the requesting party, or they bear some burden of the costs of providing the transcription. The bill presumes the availability of a stenographer and establishes a rate ($2.40 per transcript page) which may be charged for transcriptions. It is uncertain whether this rate would be sufficient to cover the transcription costs of all requested records.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7220

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COSTS TO OBTAIN TRANSCRIPTS FOR PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED BEFORE PUBLIC AGENCIES.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) requires that a recording or stenographic record of proceedings before a public agency be transcribed if a party requests it and (2) assigns the cost of any copy or transcript of the recording or record against the requesting party. Under the bill, a transcript consists of a public agency proceeding's official written record, or a part of it, a stenographer produces, including things like testimony and counsel arguments. Public agencies are state, municipal, regional, or quasi-public agencies or persons or entities deemed to be their functional equivalents (CGS § 1-200).

The bill allows a stenographer to charge a party a one-time $2.40 rate for each transcript page the party requests and stenographer transcribes from the official proceeding record before a public agency. It prescribes what constitutes a transcript page (i.e. 27 double-spaced lines on 8.5 by 11-inch paper, with 60 spaces per line), which can be on paper or stored in an electronic form.

Under the bill, the public agency that requests the transcript is responsible for its costs. The bill prohibits it from charging or otherwise seeking reimbursement for it from another party to the proceeding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/10/2025)