

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Ash Kalra, Chair

AB 2783 (Committee on Judiciary) – As Introduced March 11, 2026

PROPOSED CONSENT (As Proposed to be Amended to Add Urgency Clause)

SUBJECT: COURT REPORTING

KEY ISSUES:

- 1) SHOULD A CERTIFICATION ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL COURT REPORTER ASSOCIATION BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF CERTIFICATIONS TO SATISFY THE DICTATION/TRANSCRIPTION COMPONENT OF THE COURT REPORTER LICENSING EXAM?
- 2) SHOULD A PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZING THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THIRTEEN COUNTIES TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL OF REMOTE COURT REPORTING BE EXTENDED FROM JULY 1, 2026, TO JULY 1, 2028?

SYNOPSIS

This non-controversial bill makes two changes to the law governing court reporters. First, existing law establishes the Court Reporters Board of California for the purpose of licensing court reporters, and requires a person applying for a license to pass a three-part certification exam, one of which is labeled Dictation/Transcription. Presently, an applicant must pass either the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) or the Certified Verbatim-Stenotype (CVR-S) certification exam, administered by the National Verbatim Reporters Association, to satisfy the Dictation/Transcription part of the exam. This bill adds completion of the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, administered by the National Court Reporter Association, to the list of certifications that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component.

Second, existing law also establishes a pilot project authorizing the superior courts in thirteen counties to study the potential use of remote court reporting to make the verbatim record of certain court proceedings. Existing law provides that the pilot projects shall terminate no later than July 1, 2026, and further requires the Judicial Council to prepare a report for the Legislature with the results from each participating superior court. That project is set to terminate on July 1, 2026. This bill extends the termination date for the pilot project until July 8, 2028, so that the study may be fully completed and the Judicial Council report prepared. Because the existing project will terminate before the bill would otherwise become effective, an urgency clause is added in this Committee.

The bill is sponsored by the California Court Reporters Association and supported by the Court Reporters Board of California and the National Court Reporters Association.

SUMMARY: Provides that completion of a certification administered through the National Court Reporter Association satisfies a specified portion of the Court Reporters exam and extends the duration of the remote court reporting pilot project from June 1, 2027, to July 1, 2028. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Adds to the list of examinations that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component of the Court Reporter licensing exam successful completion of the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification administered through the National Court Reporters Association.
- 2) Extends the termination date for the “remote court reporting” pilot project, which was established in the Superior Courts of thirteen counties throughout the state, from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028. Extends the repeal date of the statute creating the pilot project from June 1, 2027, to January 1, 2029.
- 3) Provides that this bill will take effect as an urgency measure.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Court Reporters Board of California for the licensure and regulation of shorthand court reporters. (Business & Professions Code Section 8000 *et seq.*)
- 2) Requires an applicant for a shorthand court reporter’s license to, *inter alia*, pass an examination consisting of three parts, one of which is labeled Dictation/Transcription (Machine/Skill). Under existing law, successful completion of the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) or Certified Verbatim Reporter-Stenotype (CVR-S) certification administered through the National Verbatim Reporters Association satisfies the requirement to pass the Dictation/Transcription portion of the examination. (Business and Professions Code Section 8020.5.)
- 3) Authorizes the superior courts of thirteen counties to conduct pilot projects, beginning on July 1, 2025, to study the potential use of remote court reporting to make the verbatim record of certain court proceedings under specified requirements. Provides that all pilot projects shall terminate no later than July 1, 2026, and further requires the Judicial Council to prepare a report for the Legislature with the results from each participating superior court. Repeals these provisions on June 1, 2027. (Government Code Section 69959.5.)

FISCAL EFFECT: As currently in print this bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS: This non-controversial bill makes two changes to the law governing court reporters. First, existing law establishes the Court Reporters Board of California for the purpose of licensing court reporters, and it requires a person applying for a license to pass a three-part certification exam, one of which is labeled Dictation/Transcription. Presently, an applicant must pass either the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) or the Certified Verbatim-Stenotype (CVR-S) certification exam, administered by the National Verbatim Reporters Association, to satisfy the Dictation/Transcription part of the exam. This bill adds completion of the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, administered by the National Court Reporter Association, to the list of certifications that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component.

Second, existing law also establishes a pilot project authorizing the superior courts in thirteen counties to study the potential use of remote court reporting to make the verbatim record of certain court proceedings. Existing law provides that the pilot projects shall terminate no later than July 1, 2026, and further requires the Judicial Council to prepare a report for the Legislature with the results from each participating superior court. That project is set to terminate on July 1, 2026. This bill extends the termination date for the pilot project until July 8, 2028, so that the study may be fully completed and the Judicial Council report prepared.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The National Court Reporters Association writes in support:

This legislation is a critical step in preserving the integrity of California's legal system by prioritizing the presence of certified court reporters in courtrooms.

The administration of justice relies on a "cold record" that is beyond reproach. Certified court reporters provide a level of precision, accountability, and immediate readback capability that cannot be replicated.

By ensuring that a qualified, dedicated professional remains the primary steward of the record, AB 2783 safeguards the due process rights of all litigants, particularly in complex cases where nuances are paramount.

Furthermore, the restoration of justice depends on the accessibility and reliability of transcripts for appellate review. Without the gold standard of a certified reporter, the risk of potentially compromising the ability of higher courts to rectify errors or uphold just verdicts rises. Passing this bill signals that California views judicial integrity not as a convenience, but as a foundational priority.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Court Reporters Association (sponsor)
Court Reporters Board of California
National Court Reporters Association

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Tom Clark / JUD. / (916) 319-2334