

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2783 (Committee on Judiciary) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: Yes

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, administered by the National Court Reporters Association, to the list of certifications that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component of the court reporter licensing examination, and extends the sunset date of the remote court reporting pilot project operating in 13 superior courts from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs for courts (Trial Court Trust Fund). The Court Reporters Board, which administers the reporter licensing examination, is a fee-supported regulatory entity, and any incremental workload from processing applications based on the added RPR certification is absorbable within existing fee-supported resources. The extension of the existing remote court reporting pilot project does not create new obligations for the trial courts.

Nonetheless, consistent with the committee rules, this bill is a candidate for the committee's suspense file because it has the primary purpose of creating a pilot program.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This committee bill is sponsored by the National Court Reporters Association, which states that AB 2378 is “a critical step in preserving the integrity of California’s legal system by prioritizing the presence of certified court reporters in courtrooms.”
- 2) **Background.** Under existing law, the Court Reporters Board of California licenses shorthand court reporters and administers a three-part certification examination. Successful completion of either the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) or Certified Verbatim Reporter-Stenotype (CVR-S) certification, administered by the National Verbatim Reporters Association, currently satisfies the Dictation/Transcription component. This bill adds the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, administered by the National Court Reporters Association, to that list.

Separately, existing law authorizes the superior courts of 13 counties to conduct pilot projects, beginning July 1, 2025, to study the potential use of remote court reporting for certain proceedings, and requires the Judicial Council to prepare a report with results from each participating court. The pilot is currently set to terminate on July 1, 2026, with the underlying statute repealed on June 1, 2027. This bill extends the pilot termination date to

July 1, 2028, and the repeal date to January 1, 2029, to allow the study to be completed and the Judicial Council report prepared. Because the existing pilot authority would otherwise expire before this bill could take effect as a regular statute, the bill includes an urgency clause.

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