

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2783 (Committee on Judiciary)
As Amended April 16, 2026
2/3 vote. Urgency

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.

Major Provisions

- 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.

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.

According to the Author

This non-controversial bill does two things. First it adds the respected certification administered by the National Court Reporter Association to the list of certifications that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription portion of the court reporter licensing exam. Second, it extends the termination date for remote reporting pilot project from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028.

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.

Arguments in Opposition Unless Amended

Protect Your Record Project (PYRP) opposes this bill unless amended. PYRP writes:

Our concern with this bill applies to the section to allow the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) exam to be used in place of taking the current California Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) exam. The ultimate outcome of this bill will take remote work away from California constituents and increase work for out-of-state workers who have not qualified through the CSR exam. Reciprocity with the RPR will not help with coverage of in-person court reporting assignments in California. Almost all RPR certificate holders who want reciprocity will be domiciled outside of California. . . We believe that the language should be amended to remove the RPR reciprocity and remove CVR as reciprocity changing that to be a qualifier to take the CA CSR test just as the RPR is now.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, 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.

VOTES**ASM JUDICIARY: 12-0-0**

YES: Kalra, Macedo, Bauer-Kahan, Bryan, Connolly, Dixon, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Sanchez, Stefani, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Tom Clark / JUD. / (916) 319-2334

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