
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2783	Hearing Date:	June 29, 2026
Author:	Committee on Judiciary		
Version:	June 3, 2026		
Urgency:	Yes	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Elissa Silva		

Subject: Court reporting

SUMMARY: Adds the Registered Professional Reporter certification examination to the list of examinations which satisfy the dictation/transcription portion of the licensing examination for Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) and extends a remote court reporting pilot project to July 1, 2028, as specified.

NOTE: *This bill was previously heard in the Senate Committee on Judiciary on June 16, 2026, and passed by a vote of 11-0.*

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Court Reporters Board (CRB) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate CSRs, and sunsets the Board on January 1, 2029. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 8000 et seq.)
- 2) Authorizes the CRB to appoint and fix the salary of an Executive Officer and sunsets that authority on January 1, 2029. (BPC § 8005)
- 3) Prohibits a person from engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting unless the person is the holder of a certificate in full force and effect issued by the CRB, as specified. (BPC § 8016)
- 5) Defines the practice of shorthand reporting as the making, by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or machine shorthand writing, or voice writing of a verbatim record of any oral court proceeding, deposition, court ordered hearing or arbitration, or proceeding before any grand jury, referee, or court commissioner. (BPC § 8017)
- 6) Defines voice writing as a verbatim record or a proceeding using a closed microphone voice dictation silencer, steno mask, or similar device using oral shorthand and voice notes made by a CSR. (BPC § 8017.5)
- 7) Reserves use of the title “certified shorthand reporter” and the abbreviation “C.S.R.” for licensees of the CRB and prohibits the use by nonlicensees of the words “stenographer,” or “reporter,” or of the phrases “court reporter,” “deposition reporter,” or “digital reporter,” in combination with words or phrases related to the practice of shorthand. (BPC § 8018)

- 8) Requires the shorthand reporter licensing examination to consist of the following three divisible parts:
 - a) English,
 - b) Professional practice,
 - c) Dictation/transcription (Machine/Skill). (BPC § 8020.5)
- 9) Makes the passing grades for the English and Professional Practice, the two-written knowledge parts of the examination, to be determined by the Angoff criterion-referenced method, as specified. (BPC § 8020.5(a)(1)(B))
- 10) Sets the passing grade for the Dictation/Transcription part of the examination at 95%. (BPC § 8020.5)
- 11) Requires an applicant for licensure to take and pass all three parts of the licensing examination within three consecutive years to have passed the examination. (BPC § 8020.5(c)(2))
- 12) Specifies that passage 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 examination. (BPC § 8020.5(g)(1))
- 13) Specifies that applicants who passed the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) or Certified Verbatim Reporter-Stenotype (CVR-S) are subject to the requirements for the English examination and the Professional Practice examination, all of which must be passed within three consecutive years to have passed the California state licensing examination. (BPC § 8020.5(g)(2))
- 14) Defines a shorthand reporting corporation as a corporation, which is authorized to render professional services, as long as that corporation and all of its shareholders, officers, directors, and employees rendering professional services who are certified shorthand reporters are in compliance with California law. (BPC § 8040)
- 15) Authorizes a superior court to appoint as many competent shorthand reporters, to be known as *Official Reporters Pro Tempore* (official reporter), as deemed necessary for the performance of the duties and the exercise of the powers conferred by law upon the court and its members. (Government Code (GOV) § 69941)
- 16) Prohibits any person from being appointed to the position of official reporter of any court unless the person has first obtained a license to practice as a shorthand reporter from the CRB. (GOV § 69942)
- 17) Allows in those instances where an official reporter is unavailable to report an action or proceeding in a court, subject to the availability of approved equipment and equipment monitors, the court may order that, in a limited civil case, or a misdemeanor or infraction case, the action or proceeding be electronically recorded, including all the testimony, the objections made, the ruling of the court, the

exceptions taken, all arraignments, pleas, and sentences of defendants in criminal cases, the arguments of the attorneys to the jury, and all statements and remarks made and oral instructions given by the judge. A transcript derived from an electronic recording may be utilized whenever a transcript of court proceedings is required, as specified. (GOV § 69957)

- 18) Defines “remote court reporting”, for purposes of official reporters in superior courts, to mean the use of a stenographic reporter who is not present in the courtroom to produce a verbatim record of court proceedings that are transmitted by audiovisual means to the reporter. (GOV § 69959.5(a))

This bill:

- 1) Adds to the list of examinations that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component of the Court Reporter licensing exam to include 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) States that this bill is an urgency measure to mend the gap between the pilot project set to expire July 1, 2026, and the implementation of this extended program for court reporting services, it is necessary that this bill take effect .

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations analysis, this bill will result in 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 is a committee bill authored by the Assembly Judiciary Committee intended to make various conforming and non-controversial updates to laws within the Committee’s jurisdiction.
2. **Background.**

Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) and the Court Reporters Board (CRB). The CRB is responsible for licensing and disciplining CSRs. The CRB determines the educational requirements for licensure standards and approves schools. Since 1972, the CRB has permitted the certification of individuals and at one time, the

registration of shorthand reporting corporations. In addition to licensing and disciplinary functions, the CRB enforces the professional standards of practice (16 CCR § 2475) for certified shorthand professionals. The CRB is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2029, and is subject to the annual joint sunset review oversight process.

There are multiple pathways to licensure as a CSR. A majority of applicants qualify to take the CSR examination through completion of a training program from a recognized court reporting school. If an applicant graduates from a program outside of California, to qualify to take the CSR examination they must possess a certificate from the National Court Reporters Association or from the National Verbatim Reporters Association demonstrating proficiency in machine shorthand reporting or voice writing.

AB 3252 (Berman, Chapter, Statutes of 2024) revised the pass rate for the Dictation/Transcription portion of the examination from 97.5% to 95% and additionally allowed examination reciprocity to allow individuals who have passed a national certification examination to use that national certification examination passage rate to be eligible for licensure in California. Prior to this time, applicants for a California-issued shorthand certification had to take and pass the California-licensing examination only. No national certification examinations were permitted. To address workforce shortage issues that had been identified, prior to, and during the CRB's sunset oversight review process, AB 3252 also created a pathway for examination reciprocity which permitted national examination certifications to be accepted for purposes of passing the dictation/transcription portion of the licensing examination only. That bill included the following, Certified Verbatim Reporter or Certified Verbatim Reporter-Stenotype certification administered through the National Verbatim Reporters Association. The CRB noticed that a national examination certification was inadvertently not included in those authorized examinations as specified in AB 3252. This bill simply adds the Registered Professional Reporter certification administered through the National Court Reporters Association to the list of certifications that satisfy the Dictation/Transcription component. Applicants must still take and pass the CRB's two written tests, the English and Professional Practice examinations for licensure.

Pilot Project for Designated Courts. AB 3013 (Maienschein, Chapter 250, Statutes of 2024) established a remote court reporting pilot program to be deployed in the superior courts of specified counties, which is scheduled to sunset on June 1, 2027, and requires a report from the Judicial Council on the results from each participating court no later than July 1, 2026. This bill requires specified courts to report data to the Judicial Council, requires the Judicial Council to provide its report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2027, and extends the termination date for the pilot project until July 1, 2028.

3. **Arguments in Support.** SEIU California writes in support and notes [this bill] “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.”

The Superior Court of Los Angeles writes in support and notes, “This bill provides a necessary extension of the superior courts’ remote court reporting pilot program, which allows court reporters in participating counties to capture the record of proceedings remotely. This program reduces commuting time, enhances daily courtroom coverage, and preserves the accuracy and integrity of the official record of court proceedings.”

4. **Arguments in Opposition.** The Protect Your Record Project writes in opposition and notes, “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

“As of this letter, the National Court Reporters Association states they have 4,776 Registered Professional Reporters (RPRs). The potential impact to California Certified Shorthand Reporters being displaced would be significant. This would displace the remote work of your constituents and move the work out of state to court reporters who have not passed our California standards. It is well known nationwide that California has produced some of the most qualified court reporters in our country. The current testing ensures that consumers are getting qualified, licensed professionals.

“The RPR test is not equivalent to the current CSR exam in California. California’s test is a four–voice dictation from an actual court or deposition transcript at 200 words per minute for 13 minutes. Only the last 10 minutes is transcribed. That is writing on the machine for a sustained 13 minutes. The RPR test is a two-voice test consisting of three parts, each 5 minutes in length, at varying speed and do not have to be passed at the same time; that is writing on the machine for a sustained five minutes only and each test can be taken separately over a period of three years. The RPR and the CSR tests are not comparable.”

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:

Support:

SEIU California
Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Opposition:

Protect Your Record Project
Multiple individuals

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