
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2783
Author: Committee on Judiciary , et al.
Amended: 6/3/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/16/26

AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby, Weber Pierson

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/29/26

AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Court reporting

SOURCE: California Court Reporters Association

DIGEST: This bill permits an applicant to satisfy the diction/transcription component of their examination for certification as a shorthand reporter by the Court Reporters Board of California (CRB) through completion of a certification administered by the National Court Reporter Association, and extends the termination and sunset dates for the ongoing remote reporting pilot projects in specified superior courts, on an urgency basis.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that an official court reporter or official court reporter pro tempore¹ of the superior court shall take down in shorthand all testimony, objections made,

¹ Going forward, this analysis uses “official court reporter” to include “official court reporter pro tempore.”

rulings of the court, exceptions taken, arraignments, pleas, sentences, arguments of the attorneys to the jury, and statements and remarks made and oral instructions given by the judge or other judicial officer, in the following cases:

- a) In a civil case, on the order of the court or at the request of a party.
 - b) In a felony case, on the order of the court or at the request of the prosecution, the defendant, or the attorney for the defendant.
 - c) In a misdemeanor or infraction case, on the order of the court. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.), § 269(a).)
- 2) Requires the court to provide an official court reporter in felony, dependency, and juvenile justice proceedings. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §§ 190.9, 869; Welfare & Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code, §§ 347, 677.)
 - 3) Provides that no person shall be appointed to the position of official court reporter of any court unless the person has first obtained a license to practice as a certified shorthand reporter from the CRB. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 69942.)
 - 4) Establishes the requirements for obtaining a certified shorthand reporter license from the CRB, including passing an examination that consists of three divisible parts testing for English, professional practice, and dictation/transcription (machine/skill). (Gov. Code, §§ 8020, 8020.5.)
 - 5) Provides that the dictation/transcription (machine/skill) portion of the examination under 4) may be satisfied by the successful completion of the Certified Verbatim Reporter or Certified Verbatim Reporter-Stenotype certification administered through the National Verbatim Reporters Association. (Gov. Code, § 8020.5(g).)
 - 6) Provides that, in a limited civil, misdemeanor, or infraction case, if an official court reporter is unavailable to report an action or proceeding in a court, the court may order the action or proceeding to be electronically recorded for purposes of creating the verbatim record, provided that the court has the approved equipment for doing so. (Gov. Code, § 69957(a).)
 - 7) Defines “remote court reporting” as 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. Code, § 69959(b).)

- 8) Provides that remote court reporting shall not be used by the courts to make the record of any court proceedings, and courts shall not expand any funds to purchase equipment or software to facilitate the use of remote court reporting. (Gov. Code, § 69959(a).)
- 9) Permits, notwithstanding 8), the Superior Courts for the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Tulare, and Ventura to conduct pilot projects, beginning July 1, 2025, to study the potential use of remote court reporting to make the verbatim record of certain court proceedings, subject to specified labor and technology conditions. (Gov. Code, § 69959.5(b).)
- 10) Requires each participating superior court to submit data and information to the Judicial Council on the results of a pilot project conducted under 9), including feedback from specified persons who participated, and requires the Judicial Council to compile the results and prepare a report for the Legislature within six months of the completion of the pilot project. (Gov. Code, § 69959.5(b), (c).)
- 11) Requires all pilot projects conducted pursuant to 9) to terminate no later than July 1, 2026, or earlier if a participating superior court determines that the use of remote court reporting is prejudicing the rights of litigants or the interests of justice; and repeals the pilot project's authorizing statute as of June 1, 2027. (Gov. Code, § 69959.5(c).)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that an applicant for a certified shorthand court reporter license may satisfy the dictation/transcription (machine/skill) portion of their examination requirement through successful completion of the Registered Professional Reporter certification administered through the National Court Reporters Association.
- 2) Modifies the reporting requirements for courts participating in the pilot project as follows:
 - a) Specifies that the Los Angeles, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Mateo, and Tulare Superior Courts must submit data and information to the Judicial Council on the results of their pilot projects.
 - b) Eliminates categories of persons whose feedback must be included in each court's report.

- c) Requires the Judicial Council's report to the Legislature to be submitted no later than January 1, 2027.
- 3) Extends the termination date for a superior court's authorized remote reporting pilot project to July 1, 2028.
- 4) Extends the sunset date on the remote reporting pilot project statute to January 1, 2029.
- 5) Includes an urgency clause.
- 6) Makes nonsubstantive and technical conforming changes.

Comments

Generally speaking, only a certified shorthand court reporter may take down the verbatim record of a court proceeding for the creation of the official transcript. A court reporter may be certified to take down the proceedings through typographic or shorthand means or through voicewriting. Current law mostly requires the official court reporter to be present in the courtroom while taking down the record of the proceedings; however, in 2024, the Legislature enacted AB 3013 (Maienschein, Chapter 250, Statutes of 2024), which authorized superior courts in 13 counties to implement pilot projects to test remote court reporting, as defined. To date, five superior courts have implemented pilot projects under AB 3013, and information received by Committee staff indicates that experiences with remote reporting are generally positive.

This bill extends the duration of the pilot projects authorized by AB 3013 from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028, and extends the sunset date on AB 3013 to January 1, 2029. This bill also modifies AB 3013's reporting requirements to, among other things, require the Judicial Council to present its report on the pilot projects to the Legislature by January 1, 2027. This bill also extends reciprocity to a certification administered by the National Court Reporter Association for purposes of the court reporter examination; this issue will be considered by the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee. This bill contains an urgency clause because the AB 3013 pilot authorization is set to expire in July of this year.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed this bill pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

California Court Reporters Association (source)
Judicial Council of California
Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association
SEIU California
Superior Court of Los Angeles County
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

Emerald Deposition Reporters
Kuziora Deposition Reporters
Protect Your Record Project
17 individuals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County:

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County launched its Remote Official Court Reporter Pilot on July 1, 2025, in select Probate, Family Law, and Juvenile Dependency courtrooms. The program enables official court reporters to work remotely from designated courthouse offices across the county. Participating courtrooms are equipped with livestream audio and video technology, allowing participants to see and hear one another through LACourtConnect, the Court's free remote proceedings platform.

Currently, up to ten percent of the Court's official reporters, or about twenty reporters, provide remote coverage in equipped courtrooms. Remote reporting capabilities are now in place in fifty-two courtrooms across the county. From July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, reporters covered 40,107 proceedings remotely, demonstrating strong demand and reliable performance. Reporters and judicial officers receive structured training supported by videos, guides, and checklists, and SEIU representatives have participated in training and feedback to ensure labor considerations are incorporated.

In conjunction with the Court's ongoing efforts to hire additional official court reporters, the pilot program has expanded court reporter coverage in family law and probate courtrooms. Early results indicate that remote reporting increases coverage, maintains accuracy, and supports timely access to justice, particularly in high-volume calendars, where coverage gaps can significantly impact litigants.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Protect Your Record Project:

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.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Fariás, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/5/26 15:12:59

**** END ****