

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R11342 DB-D

C.S.S.B. 1366  
By: Harris  
Jurisprudence  
4/14/1999  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, court reporting firms owned by out-of-state interests or non-court reporters are not subject to Texas' standards and Court Reporters Certification Board sanctions. C.S.S.B. 1366 expands the application of laws and sets forth eligibility qualifications regulating court reporting firms.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 1366 sets forth eligibility qualifications for shorthand reporters and court reporting firms, and creates a registration and enforcement fee.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 52.021, Government Code, by amending the heading and Subsections (b), (h), and (i), and adding Subsection (j), as follows:

Sec. 52.021. New heading: CERTIFICATION; ENFORCEMENT. Provides an exception as provided in Subsection (d). Prohibits shorthand reporting unless a person is an official court reporter or deputy reporter of a court in Texas, a self-employed freelance shorthand reporter, or an independent contractor for or employed by a court reporting firm. Requires a court reporting firm to register with the Court Reporters Certification Board (board) by paying a reasonable fee. Authorizes the board to assess a maximum \$5,000 fee against a court reporter or a court reporting firm to enforce this chapter. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Relating clause.

Amends the relating clause to clarify that this Act relates to court reporting, rather than court reporting firms.

SECTION 1.

Amends Section 52.021, Government Code, to create a new heading, add text regarding a deputy court reporter, and make nonsubstantive and conforming changes.

SECTIONS 3-4.

Redesignates existing SECTION 3 as SECTION 4, and makes application of this Act prospective.