HOUSE BILL NO. 774

Introduced: 02/12/83
Referred to Committee on Judiciary: 02/12/83
 Hearing: 2/17/83
 Report: 02/19/83, Do Pass, As Amended
2nd Reading: 02/22/83, Do Pass
3rd Reading: 02/23/83, Do Pass
Transmitted to Senate: 02/23/83
Referred to Committee on Judiciary: 3/1/83
 Hearing: 3/16/83
 Report: 03/17/83, Be Concurred In, As Amended
2nd Reading: 03/19/83, Be Concurred In
2nd Reading: 03/19/83, Be Indefinitely Postponed:
 Bill Killed

BILL NO. 174 1 INTRODUCED BY 2 uncted Smith BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: ACT CREATING A MAN 5 CLASSIFICATION OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS TO BE KNOWN AS

6 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS: AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT 7 TO APPOINT AN EXAMINING BOARD TO ASSIST THE COURT IN ISSUING 8 CERTIFICATES; AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT TO GTVE 9 EXAMINATIONS. GRANT CERTIFICATES. ADOPT RULES. AND REVOKE. 10 SUSPEND, OR REFUSE TO RENEW CERTIFICATES; REQUIRING FEES TO BE PAID TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT; REQUIRING 11 12 CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPTS; REQUIRING RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES: AND PROVIDING A PENALTY.* 13

14

WHEREAS, shorthand reporting is a technical profession
 demanding a high level of skill and accuracy; and

17 HHEREAS, the accurate and prompt reporting of court and 18 other proceedings by shorthand reporters is of great 19 importance to the operation of the judicial system and to 20 the public as well; and

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature considers it appropriate to 22 encourage the development of shorthand reporting skills and 23 award certificates to those shorthand reporters who reach a 24 high level of proficiency in their profession, without 25 creating economic barriers to those persons wishing to 1 become shorthand reporters.

THEREFORE, it is the intent of this bill to offer recognition to shorthand reporters who have achieved a high degree of skill in reporting by creating a special classification of shorthand reporters, to be designated "certified shorthand reporters", who are to be certified by the Montana Supreme Court under rules adopted by the Court. 8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Supreme court rules. The supreme court may
 adopt rules for the certification of shorthand reporters for
 the purposes of implementing the provisions of [this act].
 Section 2. Definitions. As used in [this act], the
 following definitions apply:

15 (1) "Board" means the shorthand reporters examining
16 board created in [section 3].

17 (2) "Certified shorthand reporter" means a person 18 engaged in the practice of shorthand reporting who has been 19 determined by the court to be competent to report 20 proceedings of any court, reference, commission convention, 21 deliberative assembly, or other body of similar character, 22 by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or 23 machine writing of a verbatim record, and who is certified 24 under [this act] as a certified shorthand reporter. 25 (3) "Court" means the Montana supreme court-

-2- INTRODUCED BILL

1 Section 3. Shorthand reporters examining board --2 appointment, quorum, and powers. (1) The court may appoint three residents of this state as an examining board to 3 4 conduct and assist in conducting the examination of 5 applicants for certification as certified shorthand 6 reporters. The court may release, dismiss, or remove any 7 member of the board and appoint another member in his place 8 at any time.

9 (2) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum and
10 has the power to conduct examinations.

11 (3) The board shall perform such duties and render such assistance in the examination of applicants as may be prescribed by the court and must be governed and controlled by such rules as the court may prescribe.

15 Section 4. Compensation and expenses of members of board. The members of the board are entitled to receive 16 17 expenses when engaged in the official business of the board, 18 as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and are 19 antitled to such compensation for services performed by them 20 as members of the board as may be determined by the court. 21 Section 5. Application -- qualifications. (1) Every 22 applicant for certification as a certified shorthand 23 reporter shall make application on forms prescribed by the 24 court.

25

(2) The supreme court shall certify as a certified

LC 2218/01

1	shorthand reporter any person who:
2	(a) pays the required fees;
3	(b) passes the examination required by [section 6] or
4	qualifies for certification by reciprocity under [section
5	7]; and
6	(c) submits evidence under oath to the board that he:
۲	(i) is a citizen of the United States or has declared
8	his intention of becoming a citizen:
9	(ii) is at least 18 years old;
10	(iii) is of good moral character;
11	(iv) is a high school graduate or has an equivalent
12	education; and
13	(v) has had at least 1 year of experience in shorthand
14	reporting or is a graduate of a shorthand reporting school.
15	Section 6. Examination. (1) Each applicant for
16	certification as a certified shorthand reporter shall
17	successfully complete an examination given by the court.
18	(2) Examinations must be held as often as the court
19	considers necessary and at such times and places as the
20	court may designate.
21	(3) The examination must be substantially equivalent
22	to the certificate-of-proficiency examination given by the
23	national shorthand reporters association.
24	(4) Each applicant for certification by examination

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shall pay an examination fee established in accordance with

Section 7. Reciprocity -- fee. (1) The court in its 2 discretion may walve the examination and issue a certificate 3 as a certified shorthand reporter to any person otherwise 4 5 eligiple therefor who is the holder of a certificate or license as a shorthand reporter, issued under the laws of 6 any state, the United States, the District of Columbia, or 7 8 any territory or foreign country, allowing him to hold nimself out or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand 9 reporter in such state, district, territory, or country if: 12 11 (a) the requirements entitling him to hold himself out or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand reporter in 12 13 that state, district, territory, or country were substantially equivalent to those in force in the state of 14 15 Montana at the time the certificate was originally issued; 16 and

17 (b) that state, district, territory, or country
18 extends similar privileges to shorthand reporters certified
19 under [this act].

(2) Every applicant for whom the examination is waived
 shall pay a reciprocity fee established by the court in
 accordance with [section 9].

23 Section 8. Renewal of certificate. (1) A certificate 24 issued by the court under the provisions of [this act] 25 expires on December 31 of each year and way be renewed by a certified shorthand reporter in good standing upon payment
 to the court of the annual renewal fee.

3 (2) A certified shorthand reporter whose certificate 4 has expired may at any time within 5 years after `expiration 5 of the certificate have his certificate reinstated without 6 examination, upon payment to the clerk of the court of a 7 reinstatement fee plus all lapsed annual renewal fees.

8 Section 9. Fees -- disposition. (1) The court shall 9 establish nonrefundable examination, reciprocity, renewal, 10 and reinstatement fees commensurate with the cost of 11 administering the examination, determining if reciprocal 12 privileges are to be extended to an applicant, renewing a 13 certificate, or reinstating a certificate.

14 (2) All fees must be paid to the clerk of the court.
15 (3) An applicant may be reexamined within 18 months of
16 payment of an examination fee without payment of an
17 additional fee.

18 (4) All fees collected under this section must be 19 credited to the shorthand reporters account which is 20 established within the earmarked revenue fund for use by the 21 court and the board to implement the provisions of [this 22 act].

23 Section 10. Duty to certify transcripts --- use of
24 initials. (1) Every shorthand reporter certified under [this
25 act] shall have a seal that must contain the name of the

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shorthand reporter, his place of business, and the words
 "certified shorthand reporter, state of Montana", which seal
 he shall stamp on all transcripts of testimony prepared by
 him. No certified shorthand reporter may:

5 (a) affix or permit his seal or his name to be affixed 6 to any transcript of testimony not prepared by him; or

7 (b) use his seal or do any act as a certified
8 shorthand reporter unless holding a valid certificate
9 issued under [this act] at the time.

10 (2) A person certified as a certified shorthand 11 reporter under the provisions of [this act] is entitled to use the words "certified shorthand reporter" or the initials 12 13 "C.S.R." following his name on any document prepared by him. 14 Section 11. Penalty for illegal use of title. (1) No 15 person may assume or use the title or designation "certified 16 shorthand reporter", the abbreviation "C.S.R.", or any other 17 title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, or device 18 tending to indicate that such person has been certified as a 19 certified shorthand reporter under [this act] unless that 20 person holds a current certificate issued under the 21 provisions of [this act].

(2) Any person who violates this section is guilty of
a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine
of not less than \$50 and not exceeding \$200 for each
offense. Each day of violation is considered a separate

1 offense under this section.

2 Section 12. Revocation, suspension, or refusal to 3 renew certificate. After an opportunity for a hearing under 4 the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the court may 5 revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any certificate issued 6 under [this act] for any one or any combination of the 7 following causes:

B (1) fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate as a
9 certified shorthand reporter under [this act];

10 (2) dishonesty, fraud, or gross negligence in the
11 practice of shorthand reporting;

(3) violation of any of the provisions of [this act]
 or rules adopted by the supreme court;

14 (4) cancellation, revocation, suspension, or refusal
15 to renew authority to hold oneself out for practice as a
16 certified shorthand reporter by any state, district,
17 territory, or country or any court or agency thereof for any
18 cause other than failure to pay an annual registration fee
19 in such other state, district, territory, or country.

-End-

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LC 2218/01

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. _____

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

n	comp	oliance	with a	written	request	received	February	14,,	19	83	there is	hereby	submitted	a Fiscal Note
or	. <u>H</u>	ouse	Bill	774		pursuant	to Title 5, C	thapter 4, Pa	art 2	of the	Montana	Code A	nnotated (M	MCA).
Ba	ckgro	und inf	ormatic	on us <mark>ed</mark> ir	n develor	ing this Fis	cal Note is ava	ilable from	the (Office of	Budget	and Prog	ram Plannir	ng, to members

of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION PROPOSED:

House Bill 774 is an act creating a classification of shorthand reporters to be known as certified shorthand reporters; authorizes the Supreme Court to appoint an examining board to assist the court in issuing certificates; authorizes the Supreme Court to give examinations, grant certificates, adopt rules, and revoke, suspend or refuse to renew certificates; requires fees to be paid to the Clerk of the Supreme Court; requires certification of transcripts; requires renewal of certificates; and provides a penalty.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1) Costs are based on 60 court reporters per year being certified by the Supreme Court.
- 2) The court would require .25 FTE to assist the board with its duties.
- 3) The three member board would receive travel expenses. They would be required to meet four times the first year to develop rules and establish certification criteria and twice a year thereafter to supervise the exams.
- 4) Supplies and materials would consist of postage, certificates, envelopes and statements in a yearly amount of \$250. Costs for copying, equipment, communications and other miscellaneous items would be absorbed by the Supreme Court.
- 5) The board would require \$4,000 the first year for contracted services with the National Shorthand Reporter's Association for assistance in designing and setting up the exam and developing the rules.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY84</u>	<u>FY85</u>
Expenditures:		
Personal Services	\$7,214	\$3,214
Operating Expenses	2,050	1,150
Total Expenditures under		
Proposed Law	\$9,264	\$4,364

FISCAL NOTE 15:1/1

BUDGET DIRECTOR Office of Budget and Program Planning Date: 2 - 18 - 83

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HB 774

1	STATEMENT OF INTENT
2	HOUSE BILL 774
3	House Judiciary Committee
4	

5 A Statement of Intent is not required for this bill. 6 However, one was prepared because the bill grants rulemaking 7 authority to the Montana Supreme Court for the purpose of 8 establishing a program of certification of shorthand 9 reporters.

10 Section 1 authorizes the court to adopt rules to 11 implement the act. Section 3 authorizes the court to appoint a three-member board to conduct the examination of 12 13 applicants for certification under rules adopted by the 14 court. Section 4 authorizes the court to determine the amount of compensation to be received by the board. Section 15 6 authorizes the court to administer the court reporter 16 17 certification examination. Section 8 authorizes the court to renew court reporter certificates annually upon payment of a 18 19 fee set under section 9. Under section 9. the court may set 20 various fees to fund the administration of the act.

21 It is the intent of the legislature that the court 22 adopt all rules necessary to establish and administer a 23 program of certification of shorthand reporters. A program 24 that will ensure the proficiency of court reporters will be 25 a benefit to the judicial system of the state. It is the 1 intent of the legislature that the court limit its 2 rulemaking authority to the administration of the 3 certification program, including setting standards for 4 suspension and revocation of certificates, and that the 5 court not adopt rules requiring certification as a condition 6 of employment of court reporters by the district courts.

7 It is the intent of the legislature that the duties of 8 the board appointed under section 3 be limited to duties 9 associated with conducting the examination of applicants for 10 certification and duties associated with certificate 11 revocation and suspension proceedings.

12 It is the intent of the legislature that all fees13 prescribed by the court under this bill be commensurate with14 cost.

15 It is the intent of the legislature that in enacting 16 rules to implement section 8, the court set standards for 17 renewal of a certificate when more than 5 years have elapsed 18 since expiration of the certificate, including provisions 19 for reexamination of the shorthand reporter.

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SECOND READING HB774

48th Legislature

HB 0774/02

HB 0774/02

App	roved	by	Committee
on	Judici	ary.	, ·

1	HOUSE BILL ND. 774
2	INTRODUCED BY ADDY, VINCENT, RAMIREZ,
3	KEMMIS, HEMSTAD, C. SHITH, JONES, HCBRIDE

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A 6 CLASSIFICATION OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS TO BE KNOWN AS 7 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS; AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT TO APPOINT AN EXAMINING BOARD TO ASSIST THE COURT IN ISSUING 8 9 CERTIFICATES: AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT TO GIVE 10 EXAMINATIONS, GRANT CERTIFICATES, ADOPT RULES, AND REVOKE, 11 SUSPEND, OR REFUSE TO RENEW CERTIFICATES: REQUIRING FEES TO 12 BE PAID TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT; REQUIRING 13 CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPTS: REQUIRING RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY." 14

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16 WHEREAS, shorthand reporting is a technical profession 17 demanding a high level of skill and accuracy; and

18 WHEREAS, the accurate and prompt reporting of court and 19 other proceedings by shorthand reporters is of great importance to the operation of the judicial system and to 20 21 the public as well; and

22 HAEREAS, the Legislature considers it appropriate to 23 encourage the development of shorthand reporting skills and 24 award certificates to those shorthand reporters who reach a 25 high level of proficiency in their profession, without 1 creating economic barriers to those persons wishing to 2 become shorthand reporters.

3 THEREFORE, it is the intent of this bill to offer 4 recognition to shorthand reporters who have achieved a high 5 degree of skill in reporting by creating a special 6 classification of shorthand reporters, to be designated 7 "certified shorthand reporters", who are to be certified by 8 the Montana Supreme Court under rules adopted by the Court.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 10

9

11 Section 1. Supreme court rules. The supreme court may 12 adopt rules for the certification of shorthand reporters for 13 the purposes of implementing the provisions of [this act]. 14 Section Z. Definitions. As used in [this act], the 15 following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the shorthand reporters examining 16 17 board created in [section 3].

18 (2) "Certified shorthand reporter" means a person 19 engaged in the practice of shorthand reporting who has been 20 determined by the court to be competent to report 21 proceedings of any court, reference, commission convention, 22 deliberative assembly, or other body of similar character, by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or 23 24 machine writing of a verbatim record, and who is certified 25 under [this act] as a certified shorthand reporter.

> SECOND READING HB 774

1	(3) "Court" means the Montana supreme court.	1	(2) The supreme court shall certify as a certified
2	Section 3. Shorthand reporters examining board	2	shorthand reporter any person who:
з	appointment, quorum, and powers. (1) The court may appoint	3	(a) pays the required fees;
4	three residents of this state as an examining board to	4	<pre>(b) passes the examination required by [section 6] or</pre>
5	conduct and assist in conducting the examination of	5	qualifies for certification by reciprocity under [section
6	applicants for certification as certified shorthand	6	7]; and
7	reporters. The court may release, dismiss, or remove any	۲	(c) submits evidence under oath to the board that he:
8	member of the board and appoint another member in his place	6	(i) is a citizen of the United States or has declared
9	at any time.	9	his intention of becoming a citizen;
10	(2) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum and	10	(ii) is at least 18 years old;
11	has the power to conduct examinations.	11	(ili) is of good moral character;
12	(3) The board shall perform such duties and render	12	(iv) is a high school graduate or has an equivalent
13	such assistance in the examination of applicants as may be	13	education; and
14	prescribed by the court and must be governed and controlled	14	(v) has had at least 1 year of experience in shorthand
15	by such rules as the court may prescribe.	15	reporting or is a graduate of a shorthand reporting school.
16	Section 4. Compensation and expenses of members of	16	Section 6. Examination. (1) Each applicant for
17	board. The members of the board are entitled to receive	17	certification as a certified shorthand reporter shall
18	expenses when engaged in the official business of the board,	18	successfully complete an examination given by the court.
19	as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and are	19	(2) Examinations must be held as often as the court
20	entitled to such compensation for services performed by them	20	considers necessary and at such times and places as the
21	as members of the board as may be determined by the court.	21	court may designate.
22	Section 5. Application qualifications. (1) Every	22	(3) The examination must be substantially equivalent
23	applicant for certification as a certified shorthand	23	to the certificate-of-proficiency examination given by the
24	reporter shall make application on forms prescribed by the	24	national shorthand reporters association.
25	court.	25	(4) Each applicant for certification by examination

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shall pay an examination fee established in accordance with
 [section 9].

3 (5) A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF 4 MONTANA__EOR__6__MONTHS_PRIOR_TO_LINE_EFFECTIVE_DATE_OF_THIS 5 ACTJ_AND_WHO_DURING_THAT_TIME_HAS_BEEN__PRINCIPALLY_ENGAGED 6 IN_IHE_PROFESSION_DE_COURT_REPORTING_AND_HAS_BEEN_PRACTICING 7 CONTINUOUSLY_AS_A_SHORTHAND_REPORTER_MUST*_UPON_APPLICATION B INEREEDRE_AND_PAYMENT_OF__IHE__REQUIRED__FEE___BE__ISSUED__A 9 CERTIFICATE __HITHOUT__EXAMINATION__IF__APPLICATION__FOR__THE 10 CERTIFICATE_IS_MADE__NO__LATER__THAN__6_MONTHS__AFTER__CTHE 11 EFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACTI.

12 Section 7. Reciprocity -- fee. (1) The court in its 13 discretion may waive the examination and issue a certificate 14 as a certified shorthand reporter to any person otherwise 15 eligible therefor who is the holder of a certificate or license as a shorthand reporter, issued under the laws of 16 any state, the United States, the District of Columbia, or 17 18 any territory or foreign country, allowing him to hold 19 himself out or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand 20 reporter in such state, district, territory, or country if: 21 (a) the requirements entitling him to hold himself out 22 or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand reporter in 23 that state, district, territory, or country were 24 substantially equivalent to those in force in the state of Montana at the time the certificate was originally issued: 25

1 and

2 (b) that state, district, territory, or country
3 extends similar privileges to shorthand reporters certified
4 under [this act].

5 (2) Every applicant for whom the examination is waived 6 shall pay a reciprocity fee established by the court in 7 accordance with [section 9].

8 Section 8. Renewal of certificate. (1) A certificate 9 issued by the court under the provisions of [this act] 10 expires on December 31 of each year and may be renewed by a 11 certified shorthand reporter in good standing upon payment 12 to the court of the annual renewal fee.

13 (2) A certified shorthand reporter whose certificate 14 has expired may at any time within 5 years after expiration 15 of the certificate have his certificate reinstated without 16 examination, upon payment to the clerk of the court of a 17 reinstatement fee plus all lapsed annual renewal fees.

Section 9. Fees -- disposition. (1) The court shall establish nonrefundable examination, reciprocity, renewal, and reinstatement fees commensurate with the cost of administering the examination, determining if reciprocal privilages are to be extended to an applicant, renewing a certificate, or reinstating a certificate.

24 (2) All fees must be paid to the clerk of the court.25 (3) An applicant may be reexamined within 18 months of

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payment of an examination fee without payment of an
 additional fee.

3 (4) All fees collected under this section must be 4 credited to the shorthand reporters account which is 5 established within the earmarked revenue fund for use by the 6 court and the board to implement the provisions of [this 7 act].

8 Section 10. Duty to certify transcripts -- use of 9 initials. (1) Every shorthand reporter certified under [this 10 act] shall have a seal that must contain the name of the 11 shorthand reporter, his place of business, and the words 12 "certified shorthand reporter, state of Montana", which seal 13 he shall stamp on all transcripts of testimony prepared by 14 him. No certified shorthand reporter may:

(a) affix or permit his seal or his name to be affixed
to any transcript of testimony not prepared by him; or

17 (b) use his seal or do any act as a certified
18 shorthand reporter unless holding a valid certificate
19 issued under [this act] at the time.

(2) A person certified as a certified shorthand
reporter under the provisions of [this act] is entitled to
use the words "certified shorthand reporter" or the initials
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Section 11. Penalty for illegal use of title. (1) No
person may assume or use the title or designation "certified

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shorthand reporter", the abbreviation "C.S.R.", or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, or device tending to indicate that such person has been certified as a certified shorthand reporter under [this act] unless that person holds a current certificate issued under the provisions of [this act].

7 (2) Any person who violates this section is guilty of 8 a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine 9 of not less than \$50 and not exceeding \$200 for each 10 offense. Each day of violation is considered a separate 11 offense under this section.

12 Saction 12. Revocation, suspension, or refusal to 13 renew certificate. After an opportunity for a hearing under 14 the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the court may 15 revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any certificate issued 16 under [this act] for any one or any combination of the 17 following causes:

18 (1) fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate as a
19 certified shorthand reporter under [this act];

20 (2) dishonesty, fraud, or gross negligence in the

21 practice of shorthand reporting;

22 (3) violation of any of the provisions of [this act]23 or rules adopted by the supreme court;

24 (4) cancellation, revocation, suspension, or refusal25 to renew authority to hold oneself out for practice as a

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certified shorthand reporter by any state, district,
 territory, or country or any court or agency thereof for any
 cause other than failure to pay an annual registration fee
 in such other state, district, territory, or country.

-End-

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HB 774

1	STATEMENT OF INTENT
2	HOUSE BILL 774
3	House Judiciary Committee

5 A Statement of Intent is not required for this bill. 6 However, one was prepared because the bill grants rulemaking 7 authority to the Montana Supreme Court for the purpose of 8 establishing a program of certification of shorthand 9 reporters.

Section 1 authorizes the court to adopt rules to 10 11 implement the act. Section 3 authorizes the court to appoint a three-member board to conduct the examination of 12 13 applicants for certification under rules adopted by the 14 court. Section 4 authorizes the court to determine the 15 amount of compensation to be received by the board. Section 6 authorizes the court to administer the court reporter 16 certification examination. Section 8 authorizes the court to 17 18 renew court reporter certificates annually upon payment of a fee set under section 9. Under section 9, the court may set 19 20 various fees to fund the administration of the act.

It is the intent of the legislature that the court adopt all rules necessary to establish and administer a program of certification of shorthand reporters. A program that will ensure the proficiency of court reporters will be a benefit to the judicial system of the state. It is the 1 intent of the legislature that the court limit its 2 rulemaking authority to the administration of the 3 certification program, including setting standards for 4 suspension and revocation of certificates, and that the 5 court not adopt rules requiring certification as a condition 6 of employment of court reporters by the district courts.

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15 It is the intent of the legislature that in enacting 16 rules to implement section 8, the court set standards for 17 renewal of a certificate when more than 5 years have elapsed 18 since expiration of the certificate, including provisions 19 for reexamination of the shorthand reporter.

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READING

THIRD

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1 HOUSE BILL ND. 774 1 2 2 INTRODUCED BY ADDY, VINCENT, RANIREZ, KEMMIS, HEMSTAD, C. SMITH, JONES, MCBRIDE 3 3 4 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: #AN ACT CREATING A 5 5 CLASSIFICATION OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS TO BE KNOWN AS 6 6 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS; AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT 7 7 TO APPOINT AN EXAMINING BOARD TO ASSIST THE COURT IN ISSUING 8 8 9 9 CERTIFICATES: AUTHORIZING THE SUPREME COURT TO GIVE EXAMINATIONS, GRANT CERTIFICATES, ADOPT RULES, AND REVOKE, 10 10 SUSPEND, OR REFUSE TO RENEW CERTIFICATES; REQUIRING FEES TO 11 11 12 BE PAID TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT; REQUIRING 12 CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPTS; REQUIRING RENEWAL OF 13 13 CERTIFICATES; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY." 14 14 15 15 16 16 WHEREAS, shorthand reporting is a technical profession 17 17 demanding a high level of skill and accuracy; and WHEREAS, the accurate and prompt reporting of court and 18 **I**8 19 other proceedings by shorthand reporters is of great 19 20 importance to the operation of the judicial system and to 20 21 the public as well; and 21 22 WAEREAS, the Legislature considers it appropriate to 22 23 encourage the development of shorthand reporting skills and 23 24 award certificates to those shorthand reporters who reach a 24 25 high level of proficiency in their profession, without 25

1 creating economic barriers to those persons wishing to 2 become shorthand reporters.

3 THEREFORE, it is the intent of this bill to offer 4 recognition to shorthand reporters who have achieved a high 5 degree of skill in reporting by creating a special 6 classification of shorthand reporters, to be designated 7 "certified shorthand reporters", who are to be certified by 8 the Montana Supreme Court under rules adopted by the Court.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Supreme court rules. The supreme court may
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16 (1) "Board" means the shorthand reporters examining
 17 board created in [section 3].

18 (2) "Certified shorthand reporter" means a person engaged in the practice of shorthand reporting who has been determined by the court to be competent to report proceedings of any court, reference, commission convention, deliberative assembly, or other body of similar character, by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or machine writing of a verbatim record, and who is certified under [this act] as a certified shorthand reporter.

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нв 774 THIRD READING •

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1	(3) "Court" means the Montana supreme court.	1 (2) The supreme court shall certify as a certified
2	Section 3. Shorthand reporters examining board	2 shorthand reporter any person who:
3	appointment, quorum, and powers. (1) The court may appoint	3 (a) pays the required fees;
4	three residents of this state as an examining board to	4 (b) passes the examination required by [section 6] or
5	conduct and assist in conducting the examination of	5 qualifies for certification by reciprocity under [section
6	applicants for certification as certified shorthand	6 7]; and
7	reporters. The court may release, dismiss, or remove any	7 (c) submits evidence under oath to the board that he:
8	member of the board and appoint another member in his place	8 (i) is a citizen of the United States or has declared
9	at any time.	9 his intention of becoming a citizen;
10	(2) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum and	10 (ii) is at least 18 years old;
11	has the power to conduct examinations.	11 (iii) is of good moral character;
12	(3) The board shall perform such duties and render	12 (iv) is a high school graduate or has an equivalent
13	such assistance in the examination of applicants as may be	13 education; and
14	prescribed by the court and must be governed and controlled	14 (v) has had at least 1 year of experience in shorthand
15	by such rules as the court may prescribe.	15 reporting or is a graduate of a shorthand reporting school.
16	Section 4. Compensation and expenses of members of	16 Section 6. Examination. (1) Each applicant for
17	board. The members of the board are entitled to receive	17 certification as a certified shorthand reporter shall
18	expenses when engaged in the official business of the board+	16 successfully complete an examination given by the court.
19	as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and are	19 (2) Examinations must be held as often as the court
20	entitled to such compensation for services performed by them	20 considers necessary and at such times and places as the
21	as members of the board as may be determined by the court.	21 court may designate.
22	Section 5. Application qualifications. (1) Every	22 (3) The examination must be substantially equivalent
23	applicant for certification as a certified shorthand	23 to the certificate-of-proficiency examination given by the
24	reporter shall make application on forms prescribed by the	24 national shorthand reporters association.
25	court.	25 (4) Each applicant for certification by examination
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shall pay an examination fee established in accordance with
 [section 9].

3 (51. A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF 4 MONTANA_EOR_6_NONTHS_PRIOR_ID_LTHE_EEEECIIVE_DATE_OF_THIS 5 ACTJ_AND_WHQ_DURING_THAT_TIME_HAS_BEEN__PRINCIPALLY_ENGAGED 6 IN THE PROFESSION DE COURT REPORTING AND HAS BEEN PRACTICING 7 CONTINUOUSLY_AS_A_SHORTHAND_REPORTER_MUST_UPON_APPLICATION THEREFORE AND PAYNENT OF THE REQUIRED FEES BE ISSUED A 8 9 CERTIFICATE __WITHOUT __EXAMINATION __IF __APPLICATION __FOR __THE 10 CERTIFICATE IS MADE NO LATER THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE 11 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACTI.

12 Section 7. Reciprocity - fee. (1) The court in its discretion may waive the examination and issue a certificate 13 14 as a certified shorthand reporter to any person otherwise 15 eligible therefor who is the holder of a certificate or 16 license as a shorthand reporter, issued under the laws of 17 any state, the United States, the District of Columbia, or 16 any territory or foreign country, allowing him to hold 19 himself out or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand 20 reporter in such state, district, territory, or country if: 21 (a) the requirements entitling him to hold himself out 22 or practice as a licensed or certified shorthand reporter in 23 that state, district, territory, or country were 24 substantially equivalent to those in force in the state of 25 Montana at the time the certificate was originally issued;

t and

2 (b) that state, district, territory, or country
3 extends similar privileges to shorthand reporters certified
4 under [this act].

5 (2) Every applicant for whom the examination is waived 6 shall pay a reciprocity fee established by the court in 7 accordance with [section 9].

8 Section 8. Renewal of certificate. (1) A certificate 9 issued by the court under the provisions of [this act] 10 expires on December 31 of each year and may be renewed by a 11 certified shorthand reporter in good standing upon payment 12 to the court of the annual renewal fee.

13 (2) A certified shorthand reporter whose certificate 14 has expired may at any time within 5 years after expiration 15 of the certificate have his certificate reinstated without 16 examination, upon payment to the clerk of the court of a 17 reinstatement fee plus all lapsed annual renewal fees.

Section 9. Fees -- disposition. (1) The court shall establish nonrefundable examination, reciprocity, renewal, and reinstatement fees commensurate with the cost of administering the examination, determining if reciprocal privilages are to be extended to an applicant, renewing a certificate, or reinstating a certificate.

24 (2) All fees must be paid to the clerk of the court.25 (3) An applicant may be reexamined within 18 months of

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payment of an examination fee without payment of an
 additional fee.

3 (4) All fees collected under this section must be 4 credited to the shorthand reporters account which is 5 established within the earmarked revenue fund for use by the 6 court and the board to implement the provisions of [this 7 act]+

8 Section 10. Duty to certify transcripts --- use of 9 initials. (1) Every shorthand reporter certified under [this 10 act] shall have a seal that must contain the name of the 11 shorthand reporter, his place of business, and the words 12 "certified shorthand reporter, state of Montana", which seal 13 he shall stamp on all transcripts of testimony prepared by 14 him. No certified shorthand reporter may:

15 (a) affix or permit his seal or his name to be affixed
16 to any transcript of testimony not prepared by him; or

17 (b) use his seal or do any act as a certified
18 shorthand reporter unless holding a valid certificate
19 issued under [this act] at the time.

(2) A person certified as a certified shorthand
reporter under the provisions of [this act] is entitled to
use the words "certified shorthand reporter" or the initials
"C.S.R." following his name on any document prepared by him.
Section 11. Penalty for illiagal use of title. (1) No
person may assume or use the title or designation "certified

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1 shorthand reporter", the abbreviation "C.S.R.", or any other 2 title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, or device 3 tending to indicate that such person has been certified as a 4 certified shorthand reporter under [this act] unless that 5 person holds. a current certificate issued under the 6 provisions of [this act].

7 (2) Any person who violates this section is guilty of
8 a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine
9 of not less than \$50 and not exceeding \$200 for each
10 offense. Each day of violation is considered a separate
11 offense under this section.

12 Section 12. Revocation, suspension, or refusal to 13 renew certificate. After an opportunity for a hearing under 14 the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the court may 15 revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any certificate issued 16 under [this act] for any one or any combination of the 17 following causes:

18 (1): fraud. or deceit in obtaining a certificate as a
19 certified shorthand reporter under [this act];

20 (2) dishonesty, fraud, or gross negligence in the
 21 practice of shorthand reporting;

22 (3) violation of any of the provisions of [this act]
23 or rules adopted by the supreme court;

24 (4) cancellation, revocation, suspension, or refusal 25 to renaw authority to hold oneself out for practice as a

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r

certified shorthand reporter by any state, district,
 territory, or country or any court or agency thereof for any
 cause other than failure to pay an annual registration fee
 in such other state, district, territory, or country.

-End-

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT (Judiciary)

That House Bill No. 774 be amended as follows:

- 1. Page 2, line 24. Following: "writing" Insert: "or electronic means, if the reporter is certified in shorthand or machine writing,"
- 2. Page 5, lines 3 through ll. Strike: subsection (5) in its entirety.