

2 SSB 6240 - H COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Law & Justice

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "Sec. 1. RCW 2.32.180 and 1992 c 189 s 6 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 ~~((It shall be and is the duty of))~~ (1) Each ~~((and every))~~ superior  
10 court judge in counties or judicial districts in the state of  
11 Washington having a population of over thirty-five thousand inhabitants  
12 ~~((to appoint, or said judge may, in any county or judicial district  
13 having a population of over twenty-five thousand and less than thirty-  
14 five thousand,))~~ shall appoint a stenographic reporter to be attached  
15 to the judge's court who shall have had at least three years'  
16 experience as a skilled, practical reporter, or ~~((who upon examination  
17 shall be able to report and transcribe accurately one hundred and  
18 seventy-five words per minute of the judge's charge or two hundred  
19 words per minute of testimony each for five consecutive minutes; said  
20 test of proficiency, in event of inability to meet qualifications as to  
21 length of time of experience, to be given by an examining committee  
22 composed of one judge of the superior court and two official reporters  
23 of the superior court of the state of Washington, appointed by the  
24 president judge of the superior court judges association of the state  
25 of Washington: PROVIDED, That a stenographic reporter shall not be  
26 required to be appointed for the seven additional judges of the  
27 superior court authorized for appointment by section 1, chapter 323,  
28 Laws of 1987, the additional superior court judge authorized by section  
29 1, chapter 66, Laws of 1988, the additional superior court judges  
30 authorized by sections 2 and 3, chapter 328, Laws of 1989, the  
31 additional superior court judges authorized by sections 1 and 2,  
32 chapter 186, Laws of 1990, or the additional superior court judges  
33 authorized by sections 1 through 5, chapter 189, Laws of 1992.  
34 Appointment of a stenographic reporter is not required for any  
35 additional superior court judge authorized after July 1, 1992. The  
36 initial judicial appointee shall serve for a period of six years; the~~

1 ~~two initial reporter appointees shall serve for a period of four years~~  
2 ~~and two years, respectively, from September 1, 1957; thereafter on~~  
3 ~~expiration of the first terms of service, each newly appointed member~~  
4 ~~of said examining committee to serve for a period of six years. In the~~  
5 ~~event of death or inability of a member to serve, the president judge~~  
6 ~~shall appoint a reporter or judge, as the case may be, to serve for the~~  
7 ~~balance of the unexpired term of the member whose inability to serve~~  
8 ~~caused such vacancy. The examining committee shall grant certificates~~  
9 ~~to qualified applicants. Administrative and procedural rules and~~  
10 ~~regulations shall be promulgated by said examining committee, subject~~  
11 ~~to approval by the said president judge)) is a Washington state~~  
12 ~~certified court reporter. However, a superior court judge may select~~  
13 ~~an alternative method for making the record if the court was previously~~  
14 ~~exempted from this requirement, or the court is authorized under court~~  
15 ~~rule to use video, electronic, or mechanical recording devices.~~

16 (2) The stenographic reporter upon appointment shall thereupon  
17 become an officer of the court and shall be designated and known as the  
18 official reporter for the court or judicial district for which he or  
19 she is appointed(~~(:—PROVIDED, That~~)). In no event shall there be  
20 appointed more official reporters in any one county or judicial  
21 district than there are superior court judges in such county or  
22 judicial district; the appointments in each county with a population of  
23 one million or more shall be made by the majority vote of the judges in  
24 said county acting en banc; the appointments in each county with a  
25 population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than one  
26 million may be made by each individual judge therein or by the judges  
27 in said county acting en banc. Each official reporter so appointed  
28 shall hold office during the term of office of the judge or judges  
29 appointing him or her, but may be removed for incompetency, misconduct,  
30 or neglect of duty, and before entering upon the discharge of his or  
31 her duties shall take an oath to perform faithfully the duties of his  
32 or her office, and file a bond in the sum of two thousand dollars for  
33 the faithful discharge of his or her duties. ((Such reporter in each  
34 court is hereby declared to be a necessary part of the judicial system  
35 of the state of Washington.))"

36 EFFECT: Requires judges in counties or districts with a population  
37 in excess of 35,000 to appoint a court reporter; allows the court to

1 use alternative methods if the court was previously exempted or if the  
2 court is authorized to use alternative methods under court rule;  
3 restores current language regarding a reporter's term of office.

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