

---

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6240

---

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senator Stevens)

Read first time 1/23/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to superior court reporters; and amending RCW  
2 2.32.180.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.32.180 and 1992 c 189 s 6 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 ~~((It shall be and is the duty of))~~ (1) Each ~~((and every))~~ superior  
7 court judge ~~((in counties or judicial districts in the state of  
8 Washington having a population of over thirty-five thousand inhabitants  
9 to appoint, or said judge may, in any county or judicial district  
10 having a population of over twenty-five thousand and less than thirty-  
11 five thousand,))~~ may appoint a stenographic reporter to be attached to  
12 the judge's court who shall have had at least three years' experience  
13 as a skilled, practical reporter, or ~~((who upon examination shall be  
14 able to report and transcribe accurately one hundred and seventy-five  
15 words per minute of the judge's charge or two hundred words per minute  
16 of testimony each for five consecutive minutes; said test of  
17 proficiency, in event of inability to meet qualifications as to length  
18 of time of experience, to be given by an examining committee composed  
19 of one judge of the superior court and two official reporters of the~~

1 superior court of the state of Washington, appointed by the president  
2 judge of the superior court judges association of the state of  
3 Washington: PROVIDED, That a stenographic reporter shall not be  
4 required to be appointed for the seven additional judges of the  
5 superior court authorized for appointment by section 1, chapter 323,  
6 Laws of 1987, the additional superior court judge authorized by section  
7 1, chapter 66, Laws of 1988, the additional superior court judges  
8 authorized by sections 2 and 3, chapter 328, Laws of 1989, the  
9 additional superior court judges authorized by sections 1 and 2,  
10 chapter 186, Laws of 1990, or the additional superior court judges  
11 authorized by sections 1 through 5, chapter 189, Laws of 1992)) is a  
12 Washington state certified court reporter. Appointment of a  
13 stenographic reporter is not required ((for any additional superior  
14 court judge authorized after July 1, 1992.

15 The initial judicial appointee shall serve for a period of six  
16 years; the two initial reporter appointees shall serve for a period of  
17 four years and two years, respectively, from September 1, 1957;  
18 thereafter on expiration of the first terms of service, each newly  
19 appointed member of said examining committee to serve for a period of  
20 six years. In the event of death or inability of a member to serve,  
21 the president judge shall appoint a reporter or judge, as the case may  
22 be, to serve for the balance of the unexpired term of the member whose  
23 inability to serve caused such vacancy. The examining committee shall  
24 grant certificates to qualified applicants. Administrative and  
25 procedural rules and regulations shall be promulgated by said examining  
26 committee, subject to approval by the said president judge)).

27 (2) The stenographic reporter upon appointment shall thereupon  
28 become an officer of the court and shall be designated and known as the  
29 official reporter for the court or judicial district for which he or  
30 she is appointed((: PROVIDED, That)). In no event shall there be  
31 appointed more official reporters in any one county or judicial  
32 district than there are superior court judges in such county or  
33 judicial district; the appointments in each county with a population of  
34 one million or more shall be made by the majority vote of the judges in  
35 said county acting en banc; the appointments in each county with a  
36 population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than one  
37 million may be made by each individual judge therein or by the judges  
38 in said county acting en banc. Each official reporter so appointed  
39 ((shall hold office during the term of office of the judge or judges

1 ~~appointing him or her, but~~) may be removed for incompetency,  
2 misconduct, or neglect of duty, and before entering upon the discharge  
3 of his or her duties shall take an oath to perform faithfully the  
4 duties of his or her office, and file a bond in the sum of two thousand  
5 dollars for the faithful discharge of his or her duties. ((Such  
6 ~~reporter in each court is hereby declared to be a necessary part of the~~  
7 ~~judicial system of the state of Washington.~~)

--- END ---