

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 215

SESSION: 1999 Regular Session

TOPIC: Contracts for Freelance Court Reporting Services

Date: May 28, 1999

Analyst: Deborah K. McKnight, 651-296-5056

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1 **Freelance court reporters; disclosure of financial arrangements.**

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines "court reporting firm" and "freelance court reporter." Court reporter does not include court employees.

Defines "contract or agreement" to mean a written or oral agreement to provide ongoing reporting services not limited to a particular case or reporting incident.

Subd. 2. Disclosure. Requires disclosure of a contract or agreement in the notice of taking deposition or the notice of a legal proceeding that involves a court reporter. Requires oral disclosure by the court reporter when the proceeding starts.

Requires a freelance court reporter to treat all parties equally and provide comparable services to all.

Prohibits a freelance court reporter from advocating for a party or acting partially to a party.

Requires a freelance court reporter to comply with state and federal court rules governing reporter activities.

Requires an attorney to state the reason for objection to a particular court reporter or firm and note the objection and reason on the record.

Subd. 3. Remedies. A court or presiding officer who learns of a violation of the contracting ban may declare the record void and order the legal proceedings reconducted. All parties who violate the ban will be jointly and severally liable for costs of reconducting the legal proceedings and preparing the new record.