

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### **1 Limitations on contracts by freelance court reporters.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Various terms are defined, including the following. "Court reporting firm" is a business that provides freelance court reporting services.

"Freelance court reporter" does not include a court reporter who is employed by the court.

**Subd. 2. Contracting prohibited.** Freelance court reporters or their firms are prohibited from entering a contract for ongoing court reporting services (that is, not limited to a particular case or incident) with an attorney, law firm, party to legal proceedings, or party with a financial interest in legal proceedings. Contracts with government entities are not prohibited.

**Subd. 3. Charges; payment.** Caps the charge for second and subsequent copies of a transcript at two-thirds of the cost a court reporter charged for the original and first copy. Makes the attorney, law firm, or party who requests a court reporter responsible for paying the cost of the original transcript and first copy, if ordered by any party; unless the parties agree otherwise or the court or presiding officer so orders.

**Subd. 4. Transcript format.** Requires a transcript prepared by a court reporter, court reporting firm or entity to have at least 25 lines per full page and 52 characters per full line.

**Subd. 5. Remedies.** A court or presiding officer who learns of a violation of the contracting ban must declare the record void and order the legal proceedings reconducted using a court reporter, firm, or entity that is not in violation of the ban. All parties who violate the ban will be jointly and severally liable for costs of reconducting the legal proceedings and preparing the new record.

This act is added to the laws the attorney general is to enforce under section 8.31.