

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1006

Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson

February 23, 2001

An act to amend Section 69995 of the Government Code, relating to court reporters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1006, as amended, Jackson. Court reporters: Ventura County.

Existing law regulates the appointment, certain conditions of employment, remuneration, and benefits of official court reporters in Ventura County. Existing law exempts the official reporters from the civil service system of employees of the court and fixes their salary at a 5-step salary range with biweekly amounts equivalent to 90% of the corresponding steps in the established salary range for official superior court reporters in Los Angeles County. The salary for the senior court reporter in Ventura County is set at 10% above the biweekly salary steps specified for official superior court reporters. Existing law provides that the salary range of these court reporters may be adjusted by joint action and approval of the board of supervisors and a majority of the judges of the superior court, and must be ratified by the Legislature, as specified, or expire. Existing law provides that these court reporters are entitled to all benefits provided for the employees of the county, and that other specified compensation may be provided.

This bill would, in Ventura County, remove the exemption of official reporters from the civil service system of employees of the court. The bill would change the *above-described* salary structure of the official

court reporters to provide that ~~they~~ *their salaries* may not be paid less than ~~the~~ *90% of the corresponding steps in the established salary range for official superior court reporters in Los Angeles County*, and would remove specified limits on initial hiring salary rates. This bill would provide that the salary range of official court reporters may be adjusted by a majority of the judges of the superior court without the action and approval of the board of supervisors, and would not require legislative ratification. The bill would provide that all compensation, fees, and benefits for official and pro tempore superior court reporters shall be provided by law or memorandum or understanding. The bill would make related changes. This bill would also make clarifying changes to reflect trial court restructuring under Article VI of the California Constitution.

By expanding an existing program regarding labor negotiations with employees of the court, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 69995 of the Government Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 69995. (a) In Ventura County, a majority of the judges of the
 4 superior court may appoint as many competent official
 5 phonographic reporters as the business of the superior court
 6 requires. The court may additionally employ as many pro tempore
 7 phonographic reporters as may from time to time be required to
 8 supplement the services of the official court reporters. The court



1 may further appoint one of the official court reporters to serve as
2 senior superior court reporter to coordinate and supervise the
3 activities of official and pro tempore court reporters.

4 Official and pro tempore superior court reporters shall provide
5 court reporting services for departments of the superior court for
6 criminal, juvenile, and civil proceedings, and proceedings before
7 the grand jury, as directed by the presiding judge.

8 (b) The salary paid to official full-time superior court reporters
9 for services in reporting any and all testimony and proceedings in
10 the superior court and before the grand jury, ~~may not be less than~~
11 ~~that paid to~~ *shall be a five-step salary range with biweekly amounts*
12 *that may not be less than 90 percent of the corresponding steps in*
13 *the established salary range for official superior court reporters in*
14 Los Angeles County. The salary of the official court reporter who
15 is appointed to serve as senior superior court reporter, shall be
16 fixed at ~~ten percent (10%)~~ *10 percent* above the top salary for
17 official superior court reporters.

18 The salary range of official court reporters may be adjusted by
19 approval of a majority of the judges of the superior court.

20 The per diem compensation for pro tempore reporters serving
21 the superior court or the grand jury shall be established at one-tenth
22 ~~($\frac{1}{10}$)~~ of the top step in the salary range established for official
23 superior court reporters, for each day of service or any portion
24 thereof.

25 All compensation, fees, and benefits for official and pro
26 tempore superior court reporters shall be as elsewhere provided by
27 law or memorandum of understanding.

28 SEC. 2. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government
29 Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this
30 act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local
31 agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant
32 to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
33 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for
34 reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
35 reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims
36 Fund.

