

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 671**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Price**

February 18, 2011

---

---

An act *to amend Section 8031 of, and to add Section 8024.8 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to shorthand reporters.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 671, as amended, Price. Shorthand reporters: continuing education requirements.

Existing law provides for the certification and regulation of shorthand reporters by the Court Reporters Board of California in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and provides for the regulation of shorthand reporting schools by the board. Existing law provides for the renewal of a shorthand reporter's certificate if specified requirements are met. *Existing law sets forth specified fees for the examination for, and the issuance and renewal of, a shorthand reporter's certificate.*

This bill would require the board ~~to establish~~, on or before July 1, 2012, *to adopt regulations to establish* minimum approved continuing education requirements for renewal of a shorthand reporter's certificate, with certain exceptions, and would require the board to establish a procedure for approving providers of continuing education courses, as specified. *The bill would also authorize the board to, by regulation, establish a fee to cover the reasonable regulatory cost to the board of approving continuing education providers.*

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 8024.8 is added to the Business and  
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 8024.8. (a) On or before July 1, 2012, the board shall *adopt*  
4 *regulations to* establish minimum continuing education  
5 requirements for renewal of a certificate issued pursuant to this  
6 chapter. ~~On and after that date~~ *No earlier than six months after*  
7 *the effective date of the regulations*, to renew his or her certificate,  
8 a certificate holder shall, in addition to the requirements of Section  
9 8024, certify to the board, on a form prescribed by the board,  
10 completion of the minimum continuing education requirements.

11 (b) *The board shall ensure that the continuing education*  
12 *required by this section is relevant to the practice of shorthand*  
13 *reporting.*

14 ~~(b)~~

15 (c) The board shall also establish a procedure for approving  
16 providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of  
17 continuing education shall comply with procedures established by  
18 the board. *The board may establish a fee for providers of*  
19 *continuing education courses pursuant to Section 8031.* The board  
20 may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing  
21 education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply  
22 with the requirements of this section or any regulation adopted  
23 pursuant to this section.

24 ~~(c)~~

25 (d) The board may establish exceptions to the continuing  
26 education requirements of this section for a certificate holder who  
27 cannot meet the continuing education requirements for reasons of  
28 health, military service, or undue hardship.

29 ~~(d)~~

30 (e) The continuing education requirements of this section shall  
31 comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing  
32 education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs  
33 pursuant to Section 166.

34 ~~(e)~~

35 (f) The board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement  
36 this section.

37 SEC. 2. *Section 8031 of the Business and Professions Code is*  
38 *amended to read:*

1 8031. The amount of the fees required by this chapter is that  
2 fixed by the board in accordance with the following schedule:

3 (a) The fee for filing an application for each examination shall  
4 be no more than forty dollars (\$40).

5 (b) The fee for examination and reexamination for the written  
6 or practical part of the examination shall be in an amount fixed by  
7 the board, which shall be equal to the actual cost of preparing,  
8 administering, grading, and analyzing the examination, but shall  
9 not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75) for each separate part, for  
10 each administration.

11 (c) The initial certificate fee is an amount equal to the renewal  
12 fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on  
13 which the certificate is issued, except that, if the certificate will  
14 expire less than 180 days after its issuance, then the fee is 50  
15 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date  
16 before the date on which the certificate is issued, or fifty dollars  
17 (\$50), whichever is greater. The board may, by appropriate  
18 regulation, provide for the waiver or refund of the initial certificate  
19 fee where the certificate is issued less than 45 days before the date  
20 on which it will expire.

21 (d) By a resolution adopted by the board, a renewal fee may be  
22 established in such amounts and at such times as the board may  
23 deem appropriate to meet its operational expenses and funding  
24 responsibilities as set forth in this chapter. The renewal fee shall  
25 not be more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) nor less  
26 than ten dollars (\$10) annually, with the following exception:

27 Any person who is employed full time by the State of California  
28 as a hearing reporter and who does not otherwise render shorthand  
29 reporting services for a fee shall be exempt from licensure while  
30 in state employment and shall not be subject to the renewal fee  
31 provisions of this subdivision until 30 days after leaving state  
32 employment. The renewal fee shall, in addition to the amount fixed  
33 by this subdivision, include any unpaid fees required by this section  
34 plus any delinquency fee.

35 (e) The duplicate certificate fee shall be no greater than ten  
36 dollars (\$10).

37 (f) The penalty for failure to notify the board of a change of  
38 name or address as required by Section 8024.6 shall be no greater  
39 than fifty dollars (\$50).

1     (g) *The fee for approval of a continuing education provider*  
2 *shall be fixed by the board through regulation in an amount to*  
3 *cover the reasonable regulatory cost to the board of approving*  
4 *continuing education providers, but shall be no greater than \_\_\_\_\_*  
5 *dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_).*

O