

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 18, 2011

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, 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 *for approval of a continuing education provider, in an amount no greater than \$40*, to cover the reasonable regulatory cost to the board of approving ~~continuing education~~ those providers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (g) The fee for approval of a continuing education provider shall
37 be fixed by the board through regulation in an amount to cover the
38 reasonable regulatory cost to the board of approving continuing

- 1 education providers, but shall be no greater than _____ dollars
2 (~~\$_____~~). *forty dollars (\$40)*.