



HR0618

LRB103 37102 MST 67221 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Court Reporters Association (ILCRA) is the sole state-wide association of freelance and official court reporters in Illinois, with professional membership exclusively comprised of licensed certified shorthand reporters (CSRs), individuals who are highly trained and skilled and ethically bound to write in real time each spoken word spoken at hearings, trials, arbitrations, and depositions; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois licensed certified shorthand reporters (stenographers) are the only professionals in Illinois for whom the title court reporter is reserved by state statute; and

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WHEREAS, Court reporters write shorthand at 225 words a minute, and often much faster, to create the verbatim record upon which the courts and counsel rely as the gold standard of transcripts of proceedings and from which discrete case law and citations derive; and

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WHEREAS, Court reporters write each word spoken at legal proceedings in Illinois using phonetic alphabetic keyboards on stenographic machines that store the shorthand verbatim notes on redundant electronic text backup so that the courts,

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1 counsel, litigants, and defendants can rest assured that the
2 accurate, full record of proceedings is safe and secure not
3 only for transcript production but also from the dangers of
4 the testimony being altered, publicly disseminated, or
5 entirely lost through the vulnerabilities of unlicensed audio
6 recorder operators who do not possess the inimitable skills of
7 certified shorthand reporters; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois shorthand reporters and real-time
9 captioners provide Communication Access Realtime Translation
10 (CART) by captioning for attorneys, litigants, defendants,
11 jurors, and the public at legal proceedings, business
12 meetings, educational classes and lectures, sporting events,
13 and arts performances for many Illinoisans who are deaf or
14 hard-of-hearing, have auditory processing disabilities, or for
15 whom English is not their first language; and

16 WHEREAS, Stenographers and captioners produce a reliably
17 accurate and complete record of each spoken word and deserve
18 the public's confidence earned by the court reporters'
19 position of neutrality and adherence to confidentiality and
20 ethics guidelines necessitated by the CSRs' role as an officer
21 of the court; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we declare February 3-10, 2024 as "Court Reporting and
2 Captioning Week" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the Illinois Court Reporters Association as a
5 symbol of our respect and esteem.