

Legislative Analysis



INCREASE COURT REPORTER TRANSCRIPT FEES

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5046 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Nate Shannon
Committee: Criminal Justice
Complete to 10-9-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5046 would amend the Revised Judicature Act to increase fees that court reporters or recorders may charge for a transcript of a criminal or civil court case. Note that, although the bill addresses section 2543 of the act, which deals with circuit court reporters or recorders, sections 878 and 8631 of the act provide that the fees charged by court reporters and recorders in probate and district courts, respectively, are the same as those charged under section 2543.

Currently, unless a lower rate is agreed upon, the fee is \$1.75 per original page and 30 cents per page for each copy. This fee was established in 1986.

The bill would increase the fee to \$3.75 per original page and 90 cents per page for each copy. The bill would also provide that the minimum charge for a transcript is \$50 for the original and 90 cents per page for any copy requested. On January 1, 2030, and on January 1 of every fifth year after 2030, the state treasurer would have to adjust the amounts described above to reflect the cumulative annual percentage change in the *Consumer Price Index* and publish the adjusted amounts. (Presumably those adjusted amounts would then apply under the act.)

Consumer Price Index would mean the most comprehensive index of consumer prices available for this state from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. (This would appear to mean the Detroit Consumer Price Index, known as the D-CPI, or the CPI-U to encompass the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn urban area.¹)

The bill also would remove obsolete provisions that allowed for higher fees for transcripts ordered as part of an expedited case management system for appeals of certain civil cases that was ended in 2007.

MCL 600.2543

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5046 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local court funding units if transcripts are ordered by courts. The fiscal impact would depend on the number of requests

¹ https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/consumerpriceindex_detroit.htm

for transcripts made by courts. An increase in the per page fee amounts for transcripts would result in an increase in costs. If transcripts are ordered by any party other than courts, the requesting parties would be responsible for paying the compensation to the reporter or recorder.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.