

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 1758

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to court reporters and shorthand reporting firms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 52, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 52.003 to read as follows:

Sec. 52.003. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a foreign shorthand reporter who is not certified in this state, including a foreign shorthand reporter who provides services outside this state for use in a court in this state through an entity in the business of providing court reporting or other related services that is registered in this state; or

(2) a foreign entity in the business of providing court reporting or other related services that is not registered in this state and does not provide those services in this state.

SECTION 2. Section 52.029, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

(f) Nothing in Subsection (a)(9) shall be construed to define providing value-added business services, including long-term volume discounts, such as the pricing of products and services as prohibited gifts, incentives, or rewards.

(g) A court reporter is not subject to disciplinary action under this section for accepting compensation for providing court reporting services if the compensation is paid without regard to

1 the outcome of a court proceeding. Acceptance of the compensation
2 may not be construed as giving a court reporter a financial interest
3 in the court proceeding.

4 SECTION 3. Section 52.021(i), Government Code, is repealed.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.