

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 4529  
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Border & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law requires the clerk of each court that has an official court reporter to collect a court reporter fee of \$15. This fee is to finance court reporter services and to assist in the payment of court-reporter-related services. These may include maintaining an adequate number of court reporters to provide services to the courts, obtaining court reporter transcription services, closed-caption transcription machines, Braille transcription services, or other transcription services to comply with state or federal laws. Increasing the court reporter service fee, which has not changed since 1985, from \$15 to \$30 would allow counties to cover more of the cost of providing court reporting services.

C.S.H.B. 4529 increases the court reporter service fee in certain counties from \$15 to \$30.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 4529 amends the Government Code to require the clerk of each court that has an official court reporter and that serves a county located on the Texas-Mexico border that contains a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more to collect a court reporter service fee of \$30 as a court cost in each civil case filed with the clerk to maintain a court reporter who is available for assignment in the court and to make a conforming change.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the act does not receive the necessary vote, the act takes effect September 1, 2009.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE**

C.S.H.B. 4529 differs from the original by requiring the clerk of each court that serves a county located on the Texas-Mexico border that contains a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more, rather than a county with a population of 600,000 or more that is located on the international border, as in the original, to collect the increased court reporter service fee.