88R11056 AMF-F

By:  Leach H.B. No. 3473

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the members of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 154.051, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(a)  The Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board is established as an advisory board to the commission. The advisory board is composed of at least nine [~~seven~~] members appointed by the supreme court as follows:

(1)  one active district judge presiding over a court that employs an official court reporter;

(2)  one active attorney licensed in this state who has been a practicing member of the State Bar for more than the five years immediately preceding the attorney's appointment to the advisory board;

(3)  two certified shorthand [~~active official court~~] reporters actively engaged in the practice of official court [~~who have practiced shorthand~~] reporting in this state for more than the five years immediately preceding their appointment to the advisory board;

(4)  two [~~active~~] certified shorthand reporters actively engaged in the practice of [~~who work on a freelance basis and who have practiced~~] shorthand reporting on a freelance basis for more than the five years immediately preceding their appointment to the advisory board; [~~and~~]

(5)  one certified shorthand reporter actively engaged in practice as a captioner in this state for more than the five years immediately preceding the captioner's appointment to the advisory board; and

(6)  two certified shorthand reporters who:

(A)  own a shorthand reporting firm in this state; and

(B)  have owned and [~~one representative of a shorthand reporting firm that has~~] operated [~~as~~] a shorthand reporting firm in this state for more than the five [~~three~~] years immediately preceding their [~~the representative's~~] appointment to the advisory board.

(f-1)  Not later than the 90th day before the expiration of an advisory board member's term, the commission:

(1)  shall post on the commission's Internet website notice of the availability of the membership position;

(2)  shall accept resumes from and conduct interviews of any qualified individuals interested in appointment to the position; and

(3)  may recommend to the supreme court one or more of the qualified individuals for appointment to the advisory board.

SECTION 2.  (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Supreme Court shall appoint two additional members of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board in accordance with Section 154.051(a), Government Code, as amended by this Act.

(b)  The changes in law made by this Act to the qualifications of members of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board do not affect the entitlement of a member serving on the advisory board immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue to carry out the member's functions for the remainder of the member's term. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a member appointed or reappointed on or after the effective date of this Act.  This Act does not prohibit a person who is a member of the advisory board on the effective date of this Act from being reappointed to the advisory board if the person has the qualifications required for membership under Section 154.051, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.