

HCS SB 871 -- COURT ADMINISTRATION

SPONSOR: Romine (Trent)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 1.

Currently, for the preparation of all appellate transcripts of testimony or for proceedings in any circuit court, the court reporter shall receive \$3.50 per page. This bill repeals the specification that the court reporter is to receive \$3.50 per page in circuit court proceedings. Also, the bill repeals the provision specifying that the court reporter is to be reimbursed \$3.50 per legal page for the preparation of such transcripts.

This bill also adds an additional associate circuit judge to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit (St. Charles County) and an additional associate circuit judge in Cole County.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that court reporters should be able to negotiate a rate when working to expedite a transcript for an attorney. The bill maintains the statutory rate that can be charged to the state but allow a more flexible rate for attorneys who want to rush a transcript. Court reporters should be able to charge a higher rate if they are going to have to work on the weekend or all night to finish the job.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Romine; Jennifer Dunn, Missouri Court Reporters Association; and Kathy Foley, Missouri Court Reporters Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.