



STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 9, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80/1 et seq.), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has conducted a study of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's (IDFPR) oversight of the Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 (225 ILCS 415/1 et seq.) (the Act). GOMB has conducted its study and provided my office with its report and recommendations regarding the Act and whether the Act should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's report and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 governs the certification of shorthand reporting in the State of Illinois. The absence of certified shorthand reporters would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would eliminate the professional standards of individuals who are a significant part of Illinois' court system and the protection afforded litigants, others using the State's court processes, consumers and the services provided by shorthand reporters. To protect the consumer and the profession, it is imperative that Illinois utilize certification requirements for shorthand reporters. State laws govern the certification, qualifications, and discipline of shorthand reporting. Without regulation, shorthand reporting would have insufficient standards, which could result in negative impacts to the judicial system, which shorthand reporters support, and threats to the public, which depends on accurate and timely shorthand reporting services. Therefore, the health and safety of the public is put at risk without proper training, certification, and oversight of shorthand reporting.

The GOMB report recommends no changes to the Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 or IDFPR's enabling statute. However, the report also identifies that education and training opportunities for this profession are limited within Illinois and proposes additional analysis and engagement between IDFPR, industry groups, and educational institutions with an eye toward broadening opportunity.

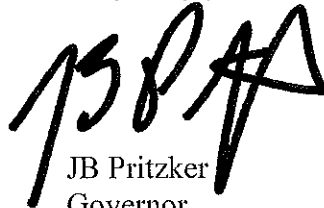
This transmittal acknowledges that House Bill (HB) 4426 (Sponsored by Representative Hernandez) amends the Act to extend the repeal date from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030, and requires shorthand reporter applicants and registrants to provide a valid address and email address to IDFPR for registration purposes, requires notification to IDFPR for changes of address, and requires new applicants to include their Social Security number or individual taxpayer identification number when applying for certification. HB 4426 unanimously passed the House on April 15, 2024, and is assigned to the Judiciary Committee in the Senate.

The absence of regulation of this industry would pose a significant and direct harm to the welfare of the public. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the State's regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Act is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening certified shorthand reporters or commerce.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget's report is provided for your reference.

Very truly yours,



JB Pritzker
Governor