



National Court Reporters Association
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 610
Reston, VA 20191-3492
Tel: 703-556-6272 • Fax: 703-391-0629
800-272-NCRA (6272) • NCRA.org

Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: Sen. Matthew LaMountain, Chair
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: RI SB 354 - Increases The Per Page Transcription Fees For Court Reporters In Court Proceedings

March 21, 2025

Dear Chair LaMountain,

On behalf of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), I am pleased to offer our resolute support for Rhode Island Senate Bill 354, which increases the per page transcription fees for court reporters in proceedings. This legislation recognizes the invaluable contributions of certified court reporters and represents a meaningful investment in the judicial integrity of Rhode Island.

Certified court reporters perform highly effective and essential work in ensuring the administration and restoration of justice, a process that begins with the accuracy of the official record. As officers of the court, they meticulously capture every word of testimony, preserving the verbatim account that serves as the foundation for due process. Their expertise guarantees that the judicial system operates with precision and reliability, safeguarding the rights of Rhode Island's citizens as afforded under the constitution. By increasing transcription fees, SB 354 acknowledges the skill and dedication required of these public servants, ensuring that their critical role is sustainably supported.

This bill is more than a financial adjustment—it is an investment in judicial integrity and the local communities court reporters serve and live in. By providing fair compensation, this legislation supports local jobs, enabling these skilled professionals to continue contributing to the economic vitality of Rhode Island. Court reporters are not only integral to the courtroom but also active members of their communities, and this measure ensures they can thrive while delivering the high-quality service that underpins equal access to justice. In turn, it reinforces the constitutional protections every Rhode Islander deserves, strengthening the state's legal framework for all.

NCRA strongly endorses SB 354 and encourages the committee's favorable consideration. To provide further insight into the significance of this measure and the vital role of court reporters, I invite you to engage with our Government Relations Department. We are prepared to share additional resources and expertise to inform the committee of deliberations. Additionally, our court reporter members are available to meet with you, offering firsthand perspectives on how their work sustains the state's justice system.

Thank you for your commitment to the people of Rhode Island. We look forward to collaborating with you to advance this important legislation and bolster the state's judicial framework.

Sincerely,

Keith Lemons

Keith R. Lemons, FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.)
President, National Court Reporters Association