



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has undertaken a study of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's administration of the Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 (225 ILCS 415). GOMB has provided my office with a copy of the study and its recommendations regarding whether the Act should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's submission and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Certified Shorthand Reporters Act governs the licensure of shorthand reporting in the State of Illinois. The absence of regulation of shorthand reporting would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would negatively impact the ethical standards that protect the court system. Shorthand reporters record grand jury proceedings, court proceedings, and certain administrative proceedings. The transcripts of shorthand reporters are available to attorneys, judges, and juries addressing causes of action and civil rights. These shorthand reporters advance the public welfare and safety by keeping accurate records of judicial proceedings and other legal matters.

Similarly, broadcast captioners provide live captioning of television and enable the deaf and hard of hearing to follow the auditory part of a broadcast. In emergencies, live captioning provides information to the 2,052,960 (6% of the population) Illinoisans who have some level of hearing loss, from mild to severe. Therefore, the health and safety of a segment of the public is put at risk without proper training, licensing, and oversight of broadcast captioning.

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 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 Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public and does not place an undue burden on licensees or commerce.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", written over a large, stylized "138A" in the margin.

Governor JB Pritzker