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H.331

Introduced by Representative LaLonde of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Judiciary; court reporters

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enact regulations to ensure the impartiality of court reporters.

An act relating to the regulation of court reporters

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 4 V.S.A. § 804 is added to read:

§ 804. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

(a) A stenographic or court reporter shall not:

(1) provide any economic or other advantage to a party or attorney in a legal proceeding unless the same advantage is offered to all parties and attorneys;

(2) enter into an agreement for court reporting services that restricts an attorney from using the court reporter of the attorney's choosing;

(3) manipulate a transcript in any manner that increases the cost of the transcript;

1 (4) provide court reporting services in a legal proceeding to a party to
2 the proceeding if the party has a separate contractual relationship with the
3 court reporter or the reporter's employer; or

4 (5) provide litigation support services, including trial preparation
5 assistance, deposition summaries, or nonpublished transcript databases.

6 (b) Upon request, a stenographic or court reporter shall provide an attorney
7 or a party in a proceeding with an itemized statement of the rates and charges
8 for all services that have been or will be provided by the reporter during the
9 proceeding.

10 (c) The Judiciary shall promulgate rules to implement the requirements of
11 this section. The rules shall include sanctions for stenographic and court
12 reporters who violate the requirements of this section.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.