

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 704

By Senator Willis

[Introduced on March 5, 2025; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §51-7-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 reports of circuit court proceedings; and authorizing circuit courts to appoint court reporters
3 or use electronic means approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7. OFFICIAL REPORTERS.

§51-7-1. Appointment; oath; attendance at grand jury sessions.

1 The circuit courts of the several judicial circuits in this state, or the judges thereof in
2 vacation, or the judges of any intermediate, criminal or common pleas court, are hereby
3 empowered and authorized to appoint ~~competent shorthand~~ court reporters, or use electronic
4 means approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals, to take and report, under such regulations as
5 such judges, or any of them, may prescribe, the proceedings had and the testimony given in any
6 case, either civil or criminal, or in any other proceeding had in such court, including the taking of
7 testimony before the grand jury of such court for the use of the prosecuting attorney of the county,
8 and in proceedings before the judge of such court in vacation, and otherwise to aid the judge in the
9 performance of his or her official duties.

10 The appointment of such reporter may be made by the judge of such court by an order
11 entered of record, and the reporter so appointed shall be designated the "official reporter" of the
12 court for which he or she shall be appointed.

13 Such reporter, when appointed, shall be qualified under oath, and shall be authorized to
14 attend the sessions of the grand jury, but shall retire from such session when directed by the
15 foreman, or a majority of the grand jury, or when ordered to do so by the court, and when the grand
16 jury desires to consult or vote upon any matters before them.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow use of a court reporter or approved electronic means to take reports of circuit court proceedings.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.