

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED JUDICIAL BRANCH
BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to court reporters, including the reporting
2 of adoption hearings and uncertified shorthand reporter
3 appointments.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 600.12, subsection 1, Code 2021, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. An adoption hearing shall be conducted informally
4 as a hearing in equity. The hearing shall be reported or
5 electronically recorded.

6 Sec. 2. Section 602.6603, subsection 4, Code 2021, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 4. If a regularly appointed court reporter becomes
9 disabled, or if a vacancy occurs in a regularly appointed
10 court reporter position, the judge may appoint a competent
11 uncertified shorthand reporter for a period of time of up to
12 ~~six months~~ one year, upon verification by the chief judge
13 that a diligent but unsuccessful search has been conducted to
14 appoint a certified shorthand reporter to the position and, in
15 a disability case, that the regularly appointed court reporter
16 is disabled. An uncertified shorthand reporter shall not be
17 reappointed to the position unless the reporter becomes a
18 certified shorthand reporter within the period of appointment
19 under this subsection.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill changes current law to allow adoption hearings to
24 be electronically recorded in lieu of being reported by a court
25 reporter.

26 The bill also increases the amount of time a judge may
27 appoint a competent uncertified shorthand reporter, if the
28 regularly appointed court reporter becomes disabled or a
29 vacancy occurs, from up to six months to up to a year.