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THE HONORABLE FRANK MONTALVO

COURT REPORTERS
CERTIFICATION BOARD

Executive Director

MICHELE L. HENRICKS

May 16, 2002

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OPINION COMMITTEE

FILE # ML-42619-02

I.D. # 42619

RQ-0553-DC

The Honorable John Cornyn
Attorney General of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Re: Request for Attorney General Opinion concerning Section 57.021(d), Texas Government Code, enacted by the Legislature in 2001, 77th session, HB 2735

Dear General Cornyn:

The Court Reporters Certification Board requests your interpretation of HB 2735, Section 57.021(d), Texas Government Code, enacted by the Legislature in 2001. The subsection is provided as follows:

- (d) The commission may maintain a list of persons certified by the *Court Reporters Certification Board* as specialists in real-time captioning and, on request, may send the list to a person or court.

Note: "Commission" stands for the Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

No mention was made of the CRCB in the bill analysis.

Given the language in the bill, our question is if any action is required by the Court Reporters Certification Board (CRCB) in this matter other than seeking clarification? Currently, the CRCB does not certify real-time reporters. The National Court Reporters Association and the Texas Court Reporters Association administer the communication access real-time (CART) exams for certification of real-time reporters. In the Fiscal Note, the CRCB provided estimated costs to certify real-time reporters by administering an exam, however, no contingency funding was appropriated to the CRCB, only to the Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing to administer their program.

Please be advised individuals from the court reporting community intend to request the CRCB be given licensing (by exam) and regulatory authority over real-time reporters in the 78th legislative session.


The Honorable John Cornyn, OAG
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For your information, enclosed are copies of:

- HB 2735 and bill analysis
- LBB Fiscal Note
- Chapter 52, CRCB statutory authority
- Standards and Rules as Promulgated by the Supreme Court of Texas
- SB 1223, relating to court reporting firms, 77th session

Thank you for your consideration of this request for an opinion. Please contact me at (512)463-1747 or by e-mail Michele.henricks@crb.state.tx.us for any additional information we may provide concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Henricks
Executive Director, CRCB

Enclosure(s)

CC: Board Members