

Subcommittee on Court Reporters

February 2, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Members: Jamie Arnold (Chair), Matt Pappas, Commissioner Claire Sharp, Dana Ryden, Rachel Misnick, and Amy Berg

1. Issue Overview

Mr. Arnold requested the creation of a subcommittee to address concerns about rising court reporting costs and the transparency of rates in Idaho. Mr. Arnold began by presenting several invoicing examples his firm has received from various court reporting companies to demonstrate the rising costs he is seeing.

Mr. Pappas confirms he is seeing the same trend on the defensive side, as many long-standing Idaho-based court reporting companies have since retired or been purchased by national brands post-COVID. Which, in his opinion, are driving up the costs. Additionally, many companies add upcharges such as Depo Pro, Litigation Technology, and Support Fee, as well as Zoom, to further inflate the invoice.

Mr. Arnold expressed his desire to see whether the Industrial Commission could regulate fee structures or require companies to provide rate transparency. Commissioner Sharp pointed out that this request may exceed the Commission's authority over the industry.

Commissioner Sharp indicated that the Commission has had similar issues with rates and with obtaining court reports for scheduled hearings. Commissioner Sharp and Mrs. Ryden informed the committee that, to address the issues it is facing, the Industrial Commission is evaluating the possibility of converting current legal associate positions into court reporters; however, this year poses considerable budget challenges, and this change is still under consideration.

Mrs. Misnick agreed that there is an issue: the Commission has already paid \$28,000 for Fiscal Year 2026, but the Industrial Commission has tried multiple times to secure a contract, and the potential vendors have declined to submit bids. She also stated that many of these services are negotiated on a national basis, and these companies, which are not hurting for business, can afford to reject the idea of a state contract.

2. Action Item: Subcommittee Recommendations

The current discussion has been tabled as the Industrial Commission continues its evaluation of converting its legal associate position(s) and continues to seek a state contract for court reporting services. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Pappas have agreed to continue to monitor rates.

Adjourned at 1:48 p.m.