

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1649

TITLE: An Act concerning furnishing transcripts of notes and fees

SPONSOR: Reps. Marjorie C. Decker and Rep. Paul McMurtry

HEARING DATE: April 8, 2025

COSPONSORS:

Rep. Marjorie Decker	Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa
Rep. Jennifer Armini	Rep. Manny Cruz
Rep. Todd Smola	Rep. David Cahill
Rep. David Vieira	Rep. Sean Reid
Rep. James Arena-DeRosa	Rep. Kristin Kassner
Rep. Steven Xiarhos	

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024, H.1453 (Decker/Peisch)
2021-2022, H1878 (Strauss)

RELATED BILL: S1168 (Lovely)

CURRENT LAW: Section 88 of Chapter 221 of the General Laws governs the procedure and fees for transcripts of court hearings. It states that a stenographer shall furnish a transcript upon request by the presiding justice or any party to be paid for by the requestor. The fees are set at \$3 per page for an original transcript and \$1 per page for a copy unless the request is for a daily copy for which the fees are \$4.50 per page for original and \$1.50 per page for a copy. The stenographer shall also furnish an electronic reproduction upon request for a fee of \$5. The fee for requests from an indigent person or their counsel for paper copies is \$.10 per page. The administrative office of the trial court is required to pay these fees for transcripts requested by a presiding justice or district attorney in a criminal case. The administrative office of the trial court shall also pay the fees for all parties to receive any transcript of a statement given to the police requested by the presiding judge.

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This legislation increases transcript fees to \$4.50 per page for originals and \$1.50 per page for copies. Rush transcripts will be paid out at \$6.75 per page for originals and \$2.25 per page for copies. Indigent persons and their counsels may request copies for \$.15 per page unless it is a rush request which will be \$.23 per page. The legislation also adds an automatic yearly fee increase that reflects the cumulative annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index. It puts the office of transcription services or the presiding justice of the administrative office of the trial court in charge of issuing directives to implement this section.