

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original _____ **Amendment** _____
Correction X **Substitute** _____

Date Feb. 24, 2025

Bill No: SB 504-280

Sponsor: Joseph Cervantes
Short Title: AOC Transcription Services

Agency Name and Code LOPD-280
Number: _____
Person Writing Kim Chavez Cook
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	12,000	Nonrecurring	general

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		-\$250	-\$250	-\$500	Recurring	LOPD budget (general)

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: SB 504 would appropriate \$12 million to AOC for use in FY26 for “transcription services statewide.” Any unexpended balance would revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

LOPD assumes this appropriation would be used to employ transcription software at the district court level to produce unofficial transcripts of the existing audio transcripts used to document “on the record” proceedings for use, primarily, on appeal. LOPD further assumes that the \$12 million would be a front-end cost for installing hardware and software that would then continue to produce transcripts in subsequent years without significant recurring costs.

When cases are appealed, trial counsel often must acquire a transcription in order to prepare an appeal, and LOPD’s Appellate Division acquires transcriptions in order to litigate the appeal. LOPD currently pays for these transcripts out of the LOPD budget, at a cost of \$250,000 per year. If the AOC were able to produce courtroom transcripts to be accessed by government agency parties to the litigation, this would reduce LOPD’s expenditures on transcription by approximately \$250,000, recurring (based on assumptions outlined above).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Under the current process used by LOPD attorneys, the transcription we acquire cannot be cited directly in court pleadings, so attorneys still must review the audio in its entirety to identify “timestamp” citations for use in litigation. While this is still more efficient than manually transcribing in-house, the attorney time savings on transcription that already includes useable citations would be significant. In addition to the direct fiscal impact discussed above, having court-provided transcripts would significantly reduce appellate attorney time spent creating usable transcripts and refocus attorney time on research and writing responsibilities. This would improve attorney productivity and could reduce caseload backlogs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS