
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6968

AN ACT CONCERNING JUROR COMPENSATION.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to juror pay and expense reimbursement.

It requires the state to pay part-time employed (see BACKGROUND) or unemployed jurors for the first five days of jury duty, instead of only starting on day six as under current law. This requirement applies if the juror has no other source of compensation for those five days. The payment must equal the minimum wage for an eight-hour day. The current minimum wage is \$16.35 per hour (adjusted each January 1 for inflation), or \$130.80 for an eight-hour day.

Under current law, starting on the sixth day of service, the state pays jurors \$50 per day. The bill (1) limits these payments to only those jurors who are not paid by their employers after the fifth day but (2) increases the amount to a flat fee equal to the minimum wage based on an eight-hour day (currently, \$130.80 per day).

The bill also expands the duration and amount of reimbursement for necessary expenses that the state pays to jurors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

REIMBURSEMENT FOR JUROR EXPENSES

Current law requires the state to pay between \$20 and \$50 a day for necessary expenses during the first five days of jury service for a juror who is (1) full-time employed but not paid by his or her employer for a particular day of jury service (see BACKGROUND), (2) part-time employed, or (3) unemployed. Necessary expenses must at least include travel reimbursement, at 20 cents per mile, but excludes food.

The bill makes the following changes to this reimbursement:

1. increases the maximum per-day reimbursement from \$50 to the minimum wage based on an eight-hour day;
2. conforms to existing practice by specifically requiring reimbursement for family care expenses, at a rate established by the jury administrator's guidelines; and
3. increases the travel reimbursement rate from 20 cents per mile to the rate for privately owned vehicles set by the federal General Services Administration (70 cents per mile for 2025).

For all jurors, the bill also requires the state to reimburse for family care and travel expenses for day six and beyond, at the same rates as noted above. The bill specifies that starting on day six, jurors are not entitled to reimbursement beyond these expenses and the daily flat fee for juror pay (except it is unclear if this limitation applies to full-time employed jurors who are not paid by their employer for a particular day).

BACKGROUND

Part-Time Employed Jurors

By law, a "part-time employed juror" is someone who works at a position normally requiring less than 30 hours per week or who works on a temporary or casual basis (but someone is considered full-time if working for more than 90 days through a temping agency in a position normally requiring at least 30 hours per week).

Required Employer Payments to Full-Time Employees for Jury Duty

By law, employers generally must pay regular wages to full-time employees for the first five days of jury service. This does not apply if the employee would not have (1) received regular wages for that particular day or (2) worked more than one-half of a shift that extends into another day.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)