
Judiciary Committee

SB 6261

Title: An act relating to payments to jurors.

Brief Description: Modifying juror payment provisions.

Sponsors: Senators B. Sheldon, Oke and T. Sheldon.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Amends the juror compensation statute to change references to "compensation" to references to "expense payments."

Hearing Date:

Staff: Edie Adams (786-7180).

Background:

The rate of pay for jurors is set by state law. Jurors must be paid at least \$10 per day, and may be paid up to \$25 per day, as determined by the local jurisdiction. Local jurisdictions bear the cost of paying jurors. Jurors also receive reimbursement for mileage at the rate set for state officials and employees by the director of the Office of Financial Management.

State law requires an employer to provide an employee with a leave of absence when the employee is summoned for jury service. An employer may not fire an employee, threaten or harass an employee, or deny an employee a promotional opportunity because the employee responds to a jury summons or serves as a juror.

Under Department of Personnel administrative rules, a state employee is allowed to take paid "miscellaneous leave" in order to serve as a juror or perform other civil duties. An employee using paid miscellaneous leave for jury service is allowed to retain any compensation paid for the jury service. However, an administrative rule that applies to personnel of higher education institutions provides that an employee of a higher education institution must reimburse the institution for all compensation received for the jury service, except for incurred expenses.

Under federal law, a federal employee is entitled to paid leave in order to serve as a juror. The amount of juror compensation received by the employee must be credited against the employee's pay.

Summary of Bill:

The juror compensation statute is amended to change references to juror "compensation" to references to juror "expense payments."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 16, 2004.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.