

**SUBJECT:** Increasing reimbursement for jury service

**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Leach, Julie Johnson, Davis, Flores, Moody, Murr, Schofield, Slawson, Vasut

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Laura Tamez, Texas Trial Lawyers Association; Ware Wendell, Texas Watch (*Registered, but did not testify*: Guy Herman, Statutory Probate Courts of Texas; Lee Parsley, Texans for Lawsuit Reform; George Christian, Texas Association of Defense Counsel; George Christian, Texas Civil Justice League; Calvin Tillman)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties)

On — Megan LaVoie, Office of Court Administration; Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County Commissioners Court (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cary Roberts, County and District Clerks' Association of Texas)

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 61.001(a) establishes reimbursement for jury service as:

- a minimum of \$6 for the first day or first fraction of a day;
- a minimum of \$40 for each subsequent day or fraction of a day.

Government Code sec. 61.0015 establishes that the state will reimburse a county \$34 a day for the reimbursement paid to a juror.

Concerns have been raised that reimbursement for jurors is not sufficient to cover the costs associated with serving on a jury.

**DIGEST:** HB 2014 would amend Government Code sec. 61.001(a) to increase the reimbursement for jury service to consist of the following:

- a minimum of \$20 for the first day or first fraction of a day;
- a minimum of \$58 for each subsequent day or fraction of a day.

The bill would amend Government Code sec. 61.0015 to require the state to reimburse counties \$52 a day for the reimbursement paid to a juror.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated impact of \$0 to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2024-25. The board also estimated that the bill would increase expenditures from the Jury Service Fund for reimbursement payment to counties.