

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3650
By: Hartnett (Harris)
Jurisprudence
5/13/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Texas Government Code Section 61.001 requires counties to pay jurors a daily stipend ranging between \$6 and \$50 for each day of service. Because most counties set the stipend at the lower end of the scale, jury service often creates significant financial hardship for jurors, especially in trials lasting several days. H.B. 3650 gives counties the discretion to reduce or eliminate the stipend for jurors who serve or attend court for only one day and to thereby increase the stipend for jurors who serve more than one day.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 3650 establishes provisions regarding reimbursement of expenses of jurors.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 61.001(a), (b), and (c), Government Code, to authorize the commissioners court, in order to increase the funds available to reimburse petit jurors or venire persons who serve longer than one day, to reduce or eliminate the reimbursement otherwise required under this section for petit jurors or venire persons who are excused or discharged one day or less after responding to summons. Provides that any amounts not paid to jurors or venire persons by virtue of this provision must be used solely to supplement the reimbursement of petit jurors or venire persons who serve more than one day after responding to summons. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.