

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 607
 Judiciary

(Delegate Adams, *et al.*)

Courts - Jurors - State Per Diem Amount

This bill increases, from \$15 to \$30, the State per diem payment made to jurors for the first five days of jury service. The bill increases, from \$50 to \$75, the State per diem payment to jurors for service in excess of five days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$2.9 million in FY 2017, which reflects the bill’s October 1, 2016 effective date, and by \$3.9 million annually thereafter for increased juror per diem payments. Revenues are not affected.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	2.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Net Effect	(\$2.9)	(\$3.9)	(\$3.9)	(\$3.9)	(\$3.9)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Initial increase in local expenditures due to the increase in the juror per diem, but the monies are recouped upon payment by the State.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Individuals required to be in attendance at or in proximity to a circuit court for jury service are generally entitled to a State per diem payment of \$15 for each day of service. Trial jurors are entitled to a per diem of \$50 for each day of service in excess of

five days. Each county and Baltimore City may supplement the State per diem amount by local ordinance.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$2,894,037 in fiscal 2017, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2016 effective date, and by approximately \$3.9 million annually thereafter. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- in fiscal 2015, the Judiciary paid for 252,311 juror days at a \$15 per diem;
- increasing the per diem rate from \$15 to \$30 increases expenditures by \$3,784,665 annually and \$2,838,499 in fiscal 2017;
- in fiscal 2015, the Judiciary paid for 2,962 juror days at a \$50 per diem;
- increasing the per diem rate from \$50 to \$75 increases expenditures by \$74,050 annually and \$55,538 in fiscal 2017;
- the number of juror days paid in a fiscal year remains constant.

Juror payment increase for \$30 per diem	\$2,838,499
Juror payment increase for \$75 per diem	<u>55,538</u>
Total FY 2017 State Expenditures	\$2,894,037

Local Fiscal Effect: Counties make juror reimbursements and are subsequently reimbursed by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Therefore, there is an initial increase in local expenditures due to the increase in the juror per diem, but the monies are recouped upon payment by the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1070 of 2008, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee. HB 83 of 2007 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2016
min/kdm

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