

ASSEMBLY, No. 2485

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Permits juror donation of statutory juror compensation to New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the donation of juror compensation, and
2 amending P.L.1993, c.275 and supplementing Title 22A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Section 19 of P.L.1993, c.275 (C.22A:1-1.1) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 19. a. Every person serving as a juror in New Jersey courts,
11 whether as a grand or petit juror, shall receive, for each day's
12 attendance at such courts, the sum of \$5.

13 b. In addition to the amounts received pursuant to subsection a.
14 of this section, each person serving as a juror, other than a person
15 compensated pursuant to N.J.S.2B:20-16, shall be paid \$35 for each
16 consecutive day of attendance in excess of three days. For the
17 purposes of this subsection, "consecutive" days of attendance shall
18 be counted excluding Saturdays, Sundays, State holidays and days
19 when a trial is in recess.

20 c. (1) The Assignment Judge of the vicinage shall designate
21 the method of juror payment.

22 (2) A juror, regardless of the method of juror payment
23 designated by the Assignment Judge, shall have the option to
24 donate, through the voluntary charitable contributions system
25 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
26 before the Legislature as this bill), all or a portion of the juror's fees
27 to the New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program, which is operated by
28 Rutgers University Behavior Heath Care with funding assistance
29 from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to provide
30 confidential, 24-hour-a-day peer counseling, support, and referral
31 services by veterans for the benefit of active, reserve, veteran, and
32 retired military service members, and their families and other
33 caretakers. Any juror making a donation pursuant to this paragraph
34 shall provide authorization to the court in writing, in a manner
35 established by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

36 (3) The Assignment Judge shall keep an account of all juror fees
37 paid or donated under this section and provide each juror with a
38 statement of the number of days the juror served **【and】**, the total
39 amount of fees to which the juror is entitled, and the total amount of
40 fees designated for donation by the juror.

41 (cf: P.L.2001, c.38, s.1)

42
43 2. (New section) a. The Administrative Office of the Courts,
44 in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall establish a juror
45 voluntary charitable contributions system for the collection of juror

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 fees donated by jurors, as authorized pursuant to paragraph (2) of
2 subsection c. of section 19 of P.L.1993, c.275 (C.22A:1-1.1), for
3 donation to the New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program, which is
4 operated by Rutgers University Behavior Heath Care with funding
5 assistance from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to
6 provide confidential, 24-hour-a-day peer counseling, support, and
7 referral services by veterans for the benefit of active, reserve,
8 veteran, and retired military service members, and their families and
9 other caretakers.

10 b. All juror fees donated through the established contributions
11 system shall be forwarded, at least annually, to the Department of
12 the Treasury for transfer to the Department of Military and
13 Veterans' Affairs for the purposes of promoting the availability of
14 the New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program, as well as assisting with
15 its administration.

16
17 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
18 next following enactment, but the State Treasurer and the
19 Administrative Office of the Courts may take any administrative
20 action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the
21 implementation of the act.

22
23
24 STATEMENT

25
26 This bill would permit jurors to donate their statutory juror
27 compensation to the New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program, which is
28 operated by Rutgers University Behavior Heath Care with funding
29 assistance from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.
30 The program provides confidential, 24-hour-a-day peer counseling,
31 support, and referral services, particularly with respect to mental
32 health care providers. The hotline is staffed by veterans for the
33 benefit of active, reserve, veteran, and retired military service
34 members, and their families and other caretakers.

35 Juror fee donations would be made through a voluntary
36 charitable contributions system established by the Administrative
37 Office of the Courts (in consultation with the State Treasurer). A
38 juror would have the option to donate, through the established
39 system, all or a portion of the juror's compensation. Any such juror
40 electing to make a donation would have to provide written
41 authorization to the court in a manner established by the
42 Administrative Office of the Courts.

43 All donations would be forwarded, at least annually, to the
44 Department of the Treasury for transfer to the Department of
45 Military and Veterans' Affairs for the purposes of promoting the
46 availability of the New Jersey Vet2Vet Hotline program, as well as
47 assisting with its administration.