

ASSEMBLY, No. 2522

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Permits juror donation of juror compensation to Legal Services of New Jersey through AOC; provides for payment of State matching funds, equal to juror donation amount, to same organization.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the donation of juror compensation, and
2 amending P.L.1993, c.275 and supplementing Title 2A and Title
3 22A of the 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 Legal Services of New Jersey, the Statewide nonprofit
28 organization that provides free legal assistance in civil matters to
29 persons who are unable to afford the cost of legal representation.

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

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

36
37 2. (New section) a. The Administrative Office of the Courts,
38 in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall establish a juror
39 voluntary charitable contribution system for the collection of juror
40 donated fees, as authorized pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection
41 c. of section 19 of P.L.1993, c.275 (C.22A:1-1.1), for donation to
42 Legal Services of New Jersey, the Statewide nonprofit organization
43 that provides free legal assistance in civil matters to persons who
44 are unable to afford the cost of legal representation. All juror fees
45 donated through the established system shall be forwarded, at least

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 annually, to the Department of the Treasury for deposit in the
2 General Fund and subsequent transmittal to Legal Services of New
3 Jersey.

4 b. The State Treasurer, upon receipt of donated juror fees
5 through the juror voluntary charitable contribution system, shall
6 make an accounting of the amount of donated fees received at the
7 time they are deposited in the General Fund. Thereafter, the State
8 Treasurer shall transmit, from the General Fund at least annually,
9 double the amount of the previously received donated juror fees to
10 Legal Services of New Jersey, representing those donated juror fees
11 plus a State match equal to those fees.

12

13 3. (New section) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall
14 create a form to be provided to all jurors that shall include a check
15 box to authorize the court to donate all or a portion of the juror's
16 fees pursuant to P.L.1993, c.275 (C.22A:1-1.1).

17

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

23

24

25 STATEMENT

26

27 This bill would permit jurors to donate their statutory juror
28 compensation to Legal Services of New Jersey, a Statewide
29 nonprofit organization that provides free legal assistance in civil
30 matters, through a voluntary charitable contribution system
31 established by the Administrative Office of the Courts (in
32 consultation with the State Treasurer).

33 Under the bill, a juror would have the option to donate, through
34 the established system, all or a portion of the juror's compensation.

35 All donations would be forwarded, at least annually, to the
36 Department of the Treasury for deposit in the General Fund and
37 subsequent transmittal to Legal Services of New Jersey.

38 The State Treasurer, upon receipt of the donations, would make
39 an accounting of the amount received at the time they are deposited
40 in the General Fund. Thereafter, the State Treasurer would
41 transmit, from the General Fund at least annually, double the
42 amount of the donated juror compensation to Legal Services of New
43 Jersey, representing the donated amount plus a State match equal to
44 that amount.

45 The Administrative Office of the Courts would create a form that
46 would be provided to all jurors that will include a check box to
47 authorize the court to donate all or a portion of the juror's fees.