HB 2224 -1   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	2/8, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the juror fee from 10 dollars to 50 dollars per day the first two days of attendance and for third and subsequent days from 25 dollars to 60 dollars per day. Allows the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to periodically increase juror fees for circuit court service to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index. For non-circuit courts, modifies the mileage reimbursement rate for juror service travel from eight cents per mile to the federal rate, and for circuit courts, from 20 cents per mile to the federal rate. Takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Composition of juries
- Jurors perform critical function of guarding the rights of litigants; actual jury of peers
- Juror stipend has not changed in more than two decades
- Barriers can affect juror participation, such as excusal for financial hardship
- Tracking hardship responses
- Other potential ways to ease hardship barriers such as childcare assistance
- Communicating reimbursement options to potential jurors
- Applicability to municipal courts
- Measure does not change who is responsible for these costs (city, county, state)
- Discussion of the alternative of increasing juror fee to minimum wage

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes language relating to increasing juror fees and mileage reimbursement affecting courts that are not circuit courts.

BACKGROUND:

Currently federal private vehicle per-mile reimbursement rate is 66 cents per mile (rounded up). This federal rate is adjusted periodically by the Administrator of General Services.

House Bill 2224 increases the fees paid to jurors and allows for future cost of living adjustments by OJD. It also matches the mileage reimbursement rate to the federal reimbursement rate for travel using a private vehicle.