

HB 2224 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/07/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Bynum, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Tran, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Reynolds

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the circuit court juror fee from \$10 to \$50 per day for the first two days of attendance and for third and subsequent days from \$25 to \$60 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 circuit courts, modifies the mileage reimbursement rate for juror service travel from 20 cents per mile to the federal rate. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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 child care 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 alternative of increasing juror fee to minimum wage
- Amendment limits application exclusively to circuit courts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes language 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 A increases the fees paid to jurors serving in circuit courts 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 for circuit court jury duty.