

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1998 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, GEIST, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, MANN, DEASY, GIBBONS, McGEEHAN, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, PRESTON, READSHAW, SAINATO AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 27, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 27, 2012

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors,
3 further providing for compensation of and travel allowance
4 for jurors.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 4561 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 4561. Compensation of and travel allowance for jurors.

10 (a) Compensation.--[A person summoned to serve as a juror
11 shall receive compensation at the rate of \$9 a day for the first
12 three days in any calendar year he shall be required to report
13 for service and \$25 a day for each day thereafter in such
14 calendar year that such person is required to report. In
15 addition, persons so summoned shall be paid a travel allowance
16 at the rate of 17¢ per mile circular except that no travel
17 allowance shall be paid in the first judicial district.]

18 Employers shall pay a person summoned to serve as a juror at the

person's ordinary wage or salary each day the person is required to report for service. The Commonwealth shall grant a tax credit to the employer for the amount expended in the same calendar year.

(a.1) Unemployed persons.--Unemployed persons shall be compensated using the appropriate rate of unemployment compensation.

(a.2) Self-employed persons.--The Commonwealth shall grant a self-employed person or a person whose sole means of income is commission a tax credit equal to the juror's monthly income in the previous year.

(a.3) Parking.--A person summoned to serve as a juror shall be given a parking voucher for a nearby parking facility.

(b) State reimbursement.--[The Commonwealth shall reimburse each county 80% of the amount expended by the county for such compensation and travel allowance beyond the first three days of service if the juror is participating in a trial or in grand jury proceedings.] Persons summoned to serve as a juror shall be paid a travel allowance at the rate provided by current IRS regulations, except that no travel allowance shall be paid in the first judicial district. Application for reimbursement shall

be made by the county to the State Treasurer through the Administrative Office pursuant to procedures prescribed by said office. As used in this section, trial participation shall include voir dire examination only if such examination shall have commenced prior to the juror's fourth day of service.

(c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "jurors" does not apply to those persons summoned to serve on a multicounty investigating grand jury who are reimbursed under section 4553(b) (relating to expenses of investigating grand

1 juries and trials resulting therefrom).

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.