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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 894 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, D. COSTA, READSHAW, DeLUCA, BARRAR,  
THOMAS, BROWNLEE, SCHREIBER, STURLA, BISHOP, MURT, C. PARKER,  
V. BROWN AND PASHINSKI, APRIL 6, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 6, 2015

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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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) State reimbursement.--[The Commonwealth shall reimburse  
15 each county 80% of the amount expended by the county for such  
16 compensation and travel allowance beyond the first three days of  
17 service if the juror is participating in a trial or in grand  
18 jury proceedings.] Persons summoned to serve as jurors shall be  
19 paid a travel allowance at the rate provided by current Internal  
20 Revenue Service regulations, except that no travel allowance  
21 shall be paid in the first judicial district. Application for  
22 reimbursement shall be made by the county to the State Treasurer  
23 through the Administrative Office pursuant to procedures  
24 prescribed by said office. As used in this section, trial  
25 participation shall include voir dire examination only if such  
26 examination shall have commenced prior to the juror's fourth day  
27 of service.

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

1 section 4553(b) (relating to expenses of investigating grand  
2 juries and trials resulting therefrom).

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