

REFERENCE TITLE: juror compensation; superior court; appropriation.

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HB 2592

Introduced by
Representatives Carter: Blackman, Diaz, Espinoza, Longdon

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 21-222, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES;
RELATING TO JURORS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 21-222, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 21-222. Arizona lengthy trial and digital evidence fund

5 A. The Arizona lengthy trial and digital evidence fund is
6 established consisting of monies received from the additional fees paid on
7 all filings, appearances, responses and answers pursuant to section 12-115
8 **AND MONIES APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE**. The monies in the fund shall
9 not be used for any purpose other than as prescribed in this section.

10 B. The supreme court shall administer the fund and shall adopt
11 rules for the administration of the fund. Not more than three percent of
12 the monies in the fund shall be used for the reasonable and necessary
13 costs of administering the fund. On or before the fifteenth day of each
14 month, on receipt of a request for reimbursement the supreme court shall
15 transmit monies from the fund to a jury commissioner for monies paid to a
16 juror under this section, together with a fee of not less than the amount
17 prescribed in section 12-284, subsection A, class E for each application
18 for payment of replacement or supplemental earnings by a juror.

19 C. Subject to the availability of monies, monies in the fund shall
20 be used to:

21 1. Pay full or partial earnings replacement or supplementation to
22 jurors who serve as petit jurors ~~for more than five days~~ **IN THE SUPERIOR**
23 **COURT** and who receive less than full compensation. The amount of
24 replacement or supplemental earnings shall be at least \$40 but not more
25 than \$300 per day per juror beginning on the first day of jury service.

26 2. If monies are available in the fund after paying jurors pursuant
27 to paragraph 1 of this subsection, pay for the management and storage of
28 digital evidence and to facilitate the display of the evidence to the jury
29 and court at a trial and related proceedings.

30 D. A **PERSON WHO SERVES AS A PETIT** juror ~~whose jury service lasts~~
31 ~~more than five days~~ **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT** may submit a request for payment
32 from the fund. The amount a juror receives from the fund is limited to
33 the difference between the jury fee prescribed in section 21-221 and the
34 actual amount of earnings a juror earns, not less than \$40, up to the
35 maximum level payable under subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section,
36 minus any amount the juror actually received from the juror's employer
37 during the same time period. A juror who requests payment from the fund:

38 1. Shall disclose on the form the juror's regular earnings, the
39 amount the juror's employer will pay during the term of jury service
40 starting on the first day and thereafter, the amount of replacement or
41 supplemental earnings being requested and any other information that the
42 jury commissioner deems necessary.

1 2. Before receiving payment from the fund, shall submit
2 verification from the juror's employer, if any, regarding the earnings
3 information that is provided under paragraph 1 of this subsection. This
4 verification may include the employee's most recent earnings statement or
5 a similar document.

6 3. In order to verify the weekly income if the juror is
7 self-employed or receives compensation other than wages, shall provide a
8 sworn affidavit attesting to the juror's approximate gross weekly income,
9 together with any other information that the supreme court requires.

10 E. Jurors who are unemployed and are not eligible for payment
11 pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 and subsection D of this section are
12 eligible to be paid \$40 per day, even if they receive income in the form
13 of spousal maintenance, pensions, retirement, unemployment compensation,
14 disability benefits or other similar income. Commissioners shall not
15 deduct these other forms of income in calculating the amount these jurors
16 are to be paid from the fund.

17 Sec. 2. Appropriations; Arizona lengthy trial and digital
18 evidence fund

19 The sum of \$1,620,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
20 each of fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to the
21 Arizona lengthy trial and digital evidence fund established by section
22 21-222, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act.