

By: Senator(s) Rhodes

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2454

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-7-61, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE RANGE OF COMPENSATION PAID TO A JUROR PER DAY FOR HIS
3 OR HER SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-7-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 25-7-61. (1) Fees of jurors shall be payable as follows:

8 (a) Grand jurors and petit jurors in the chancery,
9 county, circuit and special eminent domain courts shall be paid an
10 amount to be set by the board of supervisors, not to be less
11 than * * * Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) per day and not to be greater
12 than * * * One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day, plus mileage
13 authorized in Section 25-3-41. In the trial of all cases where
14 jurors are in the charge of bailiffs and are not permitted to
15 separate, the sheriff with the approval of the trial judge may pay
16 for room and board of jurors on panel for actual time of trial.

17 No grand juror shall receive any compensation except mileage
18 unless the juror has been sworn as provided by Section 13-5-45;



19 and no petit juror except those jurors called on special venires
20 shall receive any compensation authorized under this subsection
21 except mileage unless the juror has been sworn as provided by
22 Section 13-5-71.

23 (b) Jurors making inquisitions of intellectual
24 disability, mental illness or unsound mind and jurors on coroner's
25 inquest shall be paid * * * Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per day plus
26 mileage authorized in Section 25-3-41 by the county treasurer on
27 order of the board of supervisors on certificate of the clerk of
28 the chancery court in which the inquisition is held.

29 (c) Jurors in the justice courts shall be paid an
30 amount of not less than * * * Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per day and
31 not more than * * * Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per day, to be
32 established by the board of supervisors. In all criminal cases in
33 the justice court in which the prosecution fails, the fees of
34 jurors shall be paid by the county treasurer on order of the board
35 of supervisors on certificate of the county attorney in all
36 counties that have county attorneys, otherwise by the justice
37 court judge.

38 (2) Any juror may return the fees provided as compensation
39 for service as a juror to the county that paid for the person's
40 service as a juror. The fees returned to the county may be
41 earmarked for a particular purpose to be selected by the juror,
42 including:

43 (a) The local public library;



44 (b) Local law enforcement;

45 (c) The Mississippi Burn Care Fund created in Section
46 7-9-70; or

47 (d) Any other governmental agency.

48 (3) The Administrative Office of Courts shall promulgate
49 rules to establish a Lengthy Trial Fund to be used to provide full
50 or partial wage replacement or wage supplementation to jurors who
51 serve as petit jurors in civil cases for more than ten (10) days.

52 (a) The Uniform Circuit and County Court Rules shall
53 provide for the following:

54 (i) The selection and appointment of an
55 administrator for the fund.

56 (ii) Procedures for the administration of the
57 fund, including payments of salaries of the administrator and
58 other necessary personnel.

59 (iii) Procedures for the accounting, auditing and
60 investment of money in the Lengthy Trial Fund.

61 (iv) A report by the Administrative Office of
62 Courts on the administration of the Lengthy Trial Fund in its
63 annual report on the judicial branch, setting forth the money
64 collected for and disbursed from the fund.

65 (v) The Lengthy Trial Fund Administrator and all
66 other necessary personnel shall be employees of the Administrative
67 Office of Courts.



68 (b) The administrator shall use any monies deposited in
69 the Lengthy Trial Fund to pay full or partial wage replacement or
70 supplementation to jurors whose employers pay less than full
71 regular wages when the period of jury service lasts more than ten
72 (10) days.

73 (c) To the extent funds are available in the Lengthy
74 Trial Fund, and in accordance with any rules or regulations
75 promulgated by the Administrative Office of Courts, the court may
76 pay replacement or supplemental wages out of the Lengthy Trial
77 Fund not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per day per
78 juror beginning on the eleventh day of jury service. In addition,
79 for any jurors who qualify for payment by virtue of having served
80 on a jury for more than ten (10) days, the court, upon finding
81 that the service posed a significant financial hardship to a
82 juror, even in light of payments made with respect to jury service
83 after the tenth day, may award replacement or supplemental wages
84 out of the Lengthy Trial Fund not to exceed One Hundred Dollars
85 (\$100.00) per day from the fourth to the tenth day of jury
86 service.

87 (d) Any juror who is serving or has served on a jury
88 that qualifies for payment from the Lengthy Trial Fund, provided
89 the service began on or after January 1, 2008, may submit a
90 request for payment from the Lengthy Trial Fund on a form that the
91 administrator provides. Payment shall be limited to the
92 difference between the jury fee specified in subsection (1) of



93 this section and the actual amount of wages a juror earns, up to
94 the maximum level payable, minus any amount the juror actually
95 receives from the employer during the same time period.

96 (i) The form shall disclose the juror's regular
97 wages, the amount the employer will pay during the term of jury
98 service starting on the eleventh day and thereafter, the amount of
99 replacement or supplemental wages requested, and any other
100 information the administrator deems necessary for proper payment.

101 (ii) The juror also shall be required to submit
102 verification from the employer as to the wage information provided
103 to the administrator, for example, the employee's most recent
104 earnings statement or similar document, before initiation of
105 payment from the fund.

106 (iii) If an individual is self-employed or
107 receives compensation other than wages, the individual may provide
108 a sworn affidavit attesting to his or her approximate gross weekly
109 income, together with such other information as the administrator
110 may require, in order to verify weekly income.

111 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose an
112 obligation on any county to place monies in the Lengthy Trial Fund
113 or to pay replacement or supplemental wages to any juror from
114 county funds.

115 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
116 and after July 1, 2025.

