



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 478

February Session, 2004

House Bill No. 5064

House of Representatives, April 6, 2004

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE WITNESS FEE PAID TO POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 52-260 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

4 (b) When any regular or supernumerary [policeman] police officer
5 or any regular, volunteer or substitute [fireman] firefighter of any
6 town, city or borough is summoned to testify in any criminal
7 proceeding pending before the Superior Court or the Department of
8 Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the [policeman] police
9 officer or [fireman] firefighter receives no compensation from the
10 town, city or borough by which he is employed for the time so spent
11 by him, the [policeman] police officer or [fireman] firefighter shall be
12 allowed and paid two hundred forty dollars, together with the mileage
13 allowed by law to witnesses in criminal cases, for each day he is

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Criminal Justice, Div.	GF - Cost	187,500	250,000
Pub. Defender Serv. Com.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the witness fees (from \$40 to \$240) that state agencies must pay police officers and firefighters when they are called to testify in certain cases. Because both municipal and state employers generally compensate employees for time spent in court, passage of the bill is not anticipated to result in any impact on the State Police or municipal police and fire departments.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5064

AN ACT INCREASING THE WITNESS FEE PAID TO POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

SUMMARY:

This act increases, from \$40 to \$240, witness fees for police officers and firefighters, including volunteers or substitute, in the following circumstances:

1. in criminal proceedings before the Superior Court or proceedings before the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, if their employer does not compensate them for time spent in court;
2. in civil proceedings on any vacation or compensatory day, even if their employer compensates them for the day; and
3. in civil proceedings on other days, if their employer does not compensate them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 22 Nay 0

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 34 Nay 0