General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6968

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4447**

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING JUROR COMPENSATION.

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

Section 1. Section 51-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each full-time employed juror shall be paid regular wages by the juror's employer for the first five days, or part thereof, of jury service. Such payment shall be subject to the requirements of section 31-71b and any employer who violates this section shall be subject to the provisions of sections 31-71g and 31-72. A person shall not be considered a full-time employed juror on any day of jury service in which such person (1) would not have accrued regular wages to be paid by the employer if such person were not serving as a juror on that day, or (2) would not have worked more than one-half of a shift which extends into another day if such person were not serving as a juror on that day. Each part-time employed or unemployed juror who has no source of compensation for the first five days of jury service shall receive a flat fee equal to the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58, in effect on the days of jury service, based on an eight-hour day. Each juror not

considered a full-time employed juror on a particular day of jury service pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be reimbursed by the state for necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred during that day of jury service. **[**, provided such day of service is within the first five days, or part thereof, of jury service.**]** Each part-time employed juror and unemployed juror shall be reimbursed by the state for necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the first five days, or part thereof, of jury service. Necessary out-of-pocket expenses shall include, but not be limited to, **[**twenty cents**]** family care at a rate established by the Jury Administrator under subsection (b) of this section and travel expenses, based on the privately owned vehicle mileage reimbursement rate established by the federal General Services Administration, for each mile of travel from the juror's place of residence to the place of holding the court and return, and shall exclude food. The mileage shall be determined by the shortest direct route either by highway or by any regular line of conveyance between the points. A reimbursement award under this subsection for each day of service shall not be less than twenty dollars or more than **[**fifty dollars**]** the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58, in effect on the days of jury service, based on an eight-hour day. For the purposes of this subsection, "full-time employed juror" means an employee holding a position normally requiring thirty hours or more of service in each week, which position is neither temporary nor casual, and includes an employee holding a position through a temporary help service, as defined in section 31-129, which position normally requires thirty hours or more of service in each week, who has been working in that position for a period exceeding ninety days, and "part-time employed juror" means an employee holding a position normally requiring less than thirty hours of service in each week or an employee working on a temporary or casual basis. In the event that a juror may be considered to be both a full-time employed juror and a part-time employed juror for any day of the first five days, or part thereof, of jury service, such juror shall, for the purposes of this section, be considered to be a full-time employed juror only.

(b) The Jury Administrator shall establish guidelines for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to this section.

(c) Each juror who serves more than five days who is not paid by such juror's employer after the fifth day shall be paid by the state for the sixth day and each day thereafter **[**at a rate of fifty dollars**]** a flat fee equal to the current minimum wage, as defined in section 31-58, in effect on the days of jury service, based on an eight-hour day per day of service. A juror receiving payment under this subsection shall not be entitled to any additional reimbursement. An unemployed or part-time employed juror who serves more than five days also shall be entitled to family care and travel expenses paid at the rate specified in subsection (a) of this section and subject to the guidelines established in subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	51-247

Statement of Purpose:

To provide just compensation to individuals selected to serve as jurors.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]