2009 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2118

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.2118

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/19/09

Recorder Job Number: 7260

Committee Clerk Signature

Minuets:

The meeting was called to order by Senator Dever and roll was taken. All committee members were present.

Sally Holewa: See attached testimony #1.

Senator Horne: If called for jury duty, does the citizen get paid for coming to jury duty even if

they don't serve?

Sally Holewa: You get the money as soon as your report.

The recording started to cut out at this point.

Senator Nelson: What are the qualifications for serving on a jury?

Sally Holewa: Over 18 years old, mentally fit, & a citizen of the United States.

Senator Dever: How many serve less than 4 hours?

Sally Holewa: 80%.

Bill Neuman: Bill Neuman from the State Bar Association, the SBA strongly supports 2118.

We need jurors and would appreciate a do pass on this bill.

A motion was made for a do pass by Senator Nelson with a second by Senator Horne. There

was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0 with Senator Dever carrying the bill.

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council 12/22/2008

Bill/Resolution No.:

SB 2118

1A. State fiscal effect: Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to

funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011	Biennium	2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$76,320		\$76,320	
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

200	7-2009 Bienr	nium	2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).

This bill would increase compensation to jurors for the first day of required attendance at sessions of the district court from \$25 to \$50 if the juror is in attendance for more than four hours.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.

Those jurors who are sent home prior to completing more than four hours of service on the first day would receive \$25 of compensation. Jurors would continue to be compensated at \$50 per day for each day after the first day of service.

Based on average monthly days served for jury service over a 16 month period, approximately 852 jury days are served each month. However, only a small percentage these jurors will be required to serve for more than one day. Of the 852 jury days served each month, 636 days are for the first day of service. Jury compensation is provided to individuals who are called in for jury service but who are not selected from the jury pool, or not required to serve because the case was settled at the last minute. These individuals would primarily serve less than four hours. Based on the assumption that 80 percent of those who serve would fall into the \$25 category, the fiscal impact would be \$76,320 for the biennium.

- 3. State fiscal effect detail: For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:
 - A. **Revenues:** Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

This bill would not directly effect revenues.

B. **Expenditures:** Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

This bill would increase jury fees by \$76,320 for the biennium.

C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.

Funding necessary for additional jury compensation is not included in the Judicial Branch budget.

Name:	Don Wolf	Agency:	ND Supreme Court
Phone Number:	328-3509	Date Prepared:	12/23/2008

PJ-19-1

Date:	
Date.	_
Pall Call Vata 4.	-

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES	2118
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.	α

Senate _Government and Veterans Affairs					Committee	
☐ Check here for Conference C	ommitt	ee				
Legislative Council Amendment Nun	nber					
Action Taken Do Por						
Motion Made By		Se	econded By Hounc)		
Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No	
Dick Dever Dave Oehlke	Y		Dwight Cook	У		
Robert M. Horne	1		Carolyn Nelson	4		
		·				
Total Yes		No		- <u> </u>		
Absent						
Floor Assignment				<u> </u>		
If the vote is on an amendment, briefly	y indicat	e inten	t			
Corrier De	EXE	1				

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410) January 22, 2009 12:57 p.m.

Module No: SR-13-0724 Carrier: Dever Insert LC: Title:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2118: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2118 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

			Date: Roll C	all Vote #:		
	2009 SENATE STA BILL/RESOLUTION	NDING ON NO.	COM	MITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES	- c	211B
Senate Govern	nment and Veterans	Affairs			Com	mittee
☐ Check here	for Conference C	ommitte	ee			
Legislative Coun	cil Amendment Nun	nber _				
Action Taken	Rocarida				***	·*. <u>.</u>
Motion Made By			Se	econded By Howe		
Ser	nators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Dick Dever Dave Oehlke Robert M. Horne		X		Dwight Cook Carolyn Nelson	X	
Total Yes _		1	No)		

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

			Date: Roll C	all Vote #:		
2	2009 SENATE STA BILL/RESOLUTION	NDING ON NO.	COMN	NITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES	3	97,
Senate Govern	ment and Veterans	Affairs			Com	Cas mittee
☐ Check here	for Conference C	ommitte	ee	-		
Legislative Counc	cil Amendment Nun	nber				
Action Taken	Do Par	_				
Motion Made By	Melson		Se	econded By Horwo		
Sen	ators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Dick Dever	- 10 181		-	Dwight Cook		
Dave Oehlke		 		Carolyn Nelson		i
Robert M. Horne		Ŷ		- Carolyli Holdon		
<u> </u>						
		 	<u> </u>			
Fotal Yes	5		No)		
		<u></u>			<u> </u>	·
loor Assignment						

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

2009 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2118

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2118

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-27-09

Recorder Job Number: 7891

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

V. Chair Bowman called the committee hearing to order at 3:15 p.m. in reference to SB 2118 in regards to compensation of jurors. All committee members were present. Chairman Holmberg had to leave for another hearing.

Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator testified in favor of SB 2118 and presented written testimony # 1 in support of the bill. Her testimony reflects a request to increase juror compensation.

Senator Mathern When does the clock start for the jurors?

Sally Holewa: The clock starts at when they are told to report in. it ends when the judge dismisses you. They call in a pool, as you are sitting there, the judge will ask basic questions, you may be excused right away, as they dismiss someone, another one may be called up someone may leave, and when the jury is seated the others are dismissed.

Senator Mathern asked if there is a decision making process when to end their time.

He was told there is no way to catch that.

Senator Christmann asked if there was a fiscal note attached to this bill. He was informed by Brady Larson, Legislative Council that there is.

Senator Krauter asked if this is in the current judicial budget.

Page 2

Senate Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution No. 2118 Hearing Date: 01-27-09

Sally Holewa: No it is not in the budget. All the advisory committees that we have had met and this came after our budget was prepared and ready, in the event it was passed we would find some way in our budget to pay this.

Senator Krebsbach I understood it came from general funds, we would appropriate general funds she was told it is general funds and they would look for it in other line items as it fluctuates from year to year.

Senator Wardner when you're called to jury duty, you don't get paid if you don't get picked.

Sally Holewa: Yes you do, once you cross the threshold you get paid.

Senator Christmann: Do you ever survey jurors and employers if they reimburse those jurors and how many employers do this?

Sally Holewa: We do survey jurors, except in the south central district. It seems that white collar workers usually get reimbursed, blue collar not too often, and construction and those type of jobs, never.

V. Chair Bowman asked if there were any more question, there were none so he closed the hearing on SB 2118.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2118

Senate Appropriations Committee
☐ Check here for Conference Committee
Hearing Date: February 9, 2009
Recorder Job Number: 9050
Committee Clerk Signature Laning

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened discussion on SB 2118.

Senator Krebsbach moved Do Pass on SB 2118.

Senator Fischer seconded.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 11 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

Senator Krebsbach will carry the bill.

Date: 2-9-09 Roll Call Vote #:

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2118

Senate					mittee
☐ Check here for Conference Co	ommitte	e			
Legislative Council Amendment Num	ber _				
Action Taken Do Pass	Do No	t Pass	Amended		
Motion Made By Len Krel	bstac	L Se	conded By Sen Ju	cher	
Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Krebsbach	<u> </u>		Senator Seymour	V	
Senator Fischer	<i></i>	-	Senator Lindaas		
Senator Wardner	1	-	Senator Robinson	1	
Senator Kilzer			Senator Warner		
V. Chair Bowman	L		Senator Krauter		
Senator Christmann			Senator Mathern		
V. Chair Grindberg	-			ļ	
Chairman Holmberg	1				
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		<u>.</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u></u>
Total Yes//		No	o _ O		
Absent					
Floor Assignment Sen of	rebs	bac	L		

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410) February 9, 2009 4:32 p.m.

Module No: SR-25-2204 Carrier: Krebsbach Insert LC: Title:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2118: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2118 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



2009 HOUSE JUDICIARY

SB 2118

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2118

louse Judiciary Committee	
Check here for Conference Committee	
Hearing Date: 3/4/09	
Recorder Job Number: 10121, 10122	
Committee Clerk Signature Remose	

Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on SB 2118.

Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator, ND Supreme Court: Sponsor, support

(attachment).

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in support. Testimony in opposition. We will close the hearing. We have the bill before us, what are the committee's wishes.

Rep. Delmore: I move a Do Pass.

Rep. Wolf: Second.

11 YES 0 NO 2 ABSENT DO PASS CARRIER: Rep. Griffin

Date: _	3/4	ŧ]	0	9	
Roll Call	Vote #:			1	

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2/8

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

☐ Check here	for Conference C	ommitt	ee			
Legislative Counc	cil Amendment Nur	mber				
Action Taken	DP D	NP	D	PASAMEND DNI	P AS AMI	END
Motion Made By	Rep Del	mou	Se	econded By Rep. L	Jack	
Represe	entatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. DeKrey				Rep. Delmore	V	
Rep. Klemin				Rep. Griffin		
Rep. Boehning		<u></u>		Rep. Vig		
Rep. Dahl		-		Rep. Wolf	V	
Rep. Hatlestad				Rep. Zaiser	1	
Rep. Kingsbury		1				
Rep. Koppelman						
Rep. Kretschmar		<u></u>				
	T			·		
<u></u>						
		<u> </u>				
Total (Yes) _			No	0		
Absent			2-			
Floor Carrier:		Rep.	Gr	iffin	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
f the vote is on an	amendment, briefl	,		0 0		

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410) March 4, 2009 9:35 a.m.

Module No: HR-39-4005 Carrier: Griffin Insert LC: Title:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2118: Judiciary Committee (Rep. DeKrey, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2118 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
SB 2118

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2118

House Appropriations Committee Government Operations Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/9/09

Recorder Job Number: 10421

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer opened the hearing on Senate Bill 2118.

Attached Testimony

Testimony of Sally Holewa- 2118.3.9.09A

Sally Holewa presented her written testimony.

Representative Meyer: When you are talking about four hours of service, like when you are called on a jury and you have to sit there all day, that counts even if you are doing nothing, correct?

Sally Holewa: That is correct. It is basically across the threshold is how we define it in the court world.

Chairman Delzer: They are also paid mileage too correct?

Sally Holewa: Yes they are paid mileage that is equivalent to what state employees get.

Representative Dosch: If they are selected to serve on a jury what are you paid?

Hearing Date: 3/9/09

Sally Holewa: The daily pay for the first day is \$25 and \$50 for any day after that. Some states do pay differently once you are actually seated but North Dakota does not. It is the same.

Representative Dosch: So if someone ends up spending a week or so on a case or in trial, that is all they get paid if they are selected is \$50.

Sally Holewa: That is correct.

Vice Chairman Thoreson: Who determines the four hours or less? Is there a sign in/sign out type system or how does that work.

Sally Holewa: It would be the clerk who would do that. Essentially they would rely on the courtroom clerk who, they check in in the morning with the jury clerk who is going to know what time they were summoned and what time they appeared. The courtroom clerk would determine the ending time for that.

Chairman Delzer: When you built the fiscal note, what numbers did you use? Is that enough to cover everybody?

Sally Holewa: I believe we used 636 jurors per week and we estimated that approximately and I can't remember if we said 75% would be sent home before noon. The reason why that number is so high is because the way the jury system works, we always call in more than actually are seated because we need to have a certain number for the preemptory strikes, which are the strikes that the attorney's have where they can just remove you for whatever reason they have determined. There are also challenges for cause which go to, for example a challenge for cause would be if I knew one of the primary witnesses in the case or I somehow knew about the case. That would be a challenge for cause. You have to build in a certain number of those. There are also jurors who don't show up and we need to accommodate. We generally figure two to three people will forget to show up.

Page 3

House Appropriations Committee Government Operations Division

Bill/Resolution No. 2118

Hearing Date: 3/9/09

Chairman Delzer: In other words you are saying 25% of the 630 a week would go from \$25 to

\$50.

Sally Holewa: Yes.

Representative Meyer: Does the court track how many people refuse to serve? You know, for

a legitimate reason or a made up one perhaps. Do you track that?

Sally Holewa: We did not track that in the past because the software didn't allow it. We do

have new software that does. I have not run those reports to check. Generally though, our

clerks are pretty diligent. What we will do is when people don't show up and say they were

supposed to be there at nine by about nine thirty they will start calling them at home to see

where they are. North Dakota in my experience has an exceedingly high rate of compliance. I

don't hear very often about anyone who flat out refuses to come or makes it a really big deal

where I have seen in other places where they will drag their screaming kids into court and say

if you are going to make me come here then you are going babysit my kids or just flat say send

the sheriff. I really have not heard those anecdotes here, or seen that problem myself.

Chairman Delzer: Becky, is the \$76,000 on the green sheet?

Becky Keller, Legislative Council: It would not be on the green sheet because it was not

included in the original. It is in the SPA.

Chairman Delzer: I was just going to see where it resided in the bill. The Senate put this in the

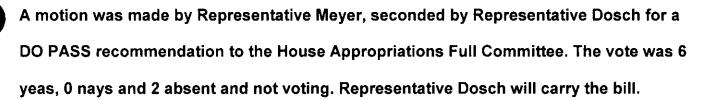
bill correct?

Sally Holewa: Yes.

There was no opposition or neutral testimony on the bill.

Chairman Delzer closed the hearing.

Page 4
House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division
Bill/Resolution No. 2118
Hearing Date: 3/9/09



2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB 2118

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 9, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10509

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjan opened the hearing on SB 2118.

Rep. Dosch explained SB 2118 which deals with reimbursement for those individuals called to jury duty. Currently if you are called you get reimbursed at a rate of \$25 for the first day. If you are called back you receive \$50 per day thereafter. This bill extends the \$50 to your first day rather than the \$25 provided you're there for four hours or more. The Committee thought this was a reasonable thing to do and it is supported by the Chief Justices as a reasonable adjustment. The Government Operation section passed this out unanimously and we ask for the same from the Full Committee.

Rep. Dosch moved a Do Pass to SB 2118. Rep. Meyer seconded the motion.

Rep. Delzer: The Senate did put the money in the bill. So the money is in the Judicial Budget.

Rep. Ekstrom: I've been selected twice and at minimum was at the Courthouse for six hours. Whether or not you are called, you still sit there.

Page 2 House Appropriations Committee SB 2118

Hearing Date: March 9, 2009

The motion carried by a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 nays and 4 absent and not voting.

Rep. Dosch will carry the bill.

Date: 3/9/09 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2118

House House Appropriations- Government Operations						Committee	
☐ Check here	for Conference C	ommitte	ee				
Legislative Counc	cil Amendment Nur	mber _		<u> </u>			
Action Taken	DO PASS						
	☐Voice Vote				⊠ Roll Call V	ote	
Motion Made By	Representative M	ive Meyer:		econded By	Representative Dosch:		
Repres	entatives	Yes	No	Repre	sentatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		Х		Representative Glassheim		Х	
Vice Chairman Thoreson		X		Representative Meyer		Х	
Representative Kempenich				Representative Kaldor		Х	
Representative	Berg						
Representative	Dosch	X					
			l				
Total (Yes)	6		N	o <u>0</u>			
Absent 2			.				
Floor Assignmen	t Representative	e Dosch:					

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

			Date:	19/09	
200	9 HOUSE STANDING	G COM	MITTEE ROLL CALL VOTI	ES	
	BILL/RESO	LUTIO	N NO. <u>2//8</u>		
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Full House Appro	oriations Committe	20	/ Na	7	
☐ Check here for	Conference Commi	ttee			
Legislative Council A	mendment Number		·		
	10		Seconded By Mey		
Motion Made By	Mosch	5	Seconded By Me		
			- marcy		
Representa					
Chairman Svedjan	tives Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Vice Chairman Kemp	enich	 	 		
Rep. Skarphol			Rep. Kroeber		
Rep. Wald		 	Rep. Onstad		
Rep. Hawken			Rep. Williams		
Rep. Klein					
Rep. Martinson					
Rep. Delzer					
Rep. Thoreson			Rep. Glassheim	1,/	
Rep. Berg		<u> </u>	Rep. Kaldor		
Rep. Dosch			Rep. Meyer		
					
Rep. Pollert			Pag Electronia		
Rep. Bellew			Rep. Ekstrom Rep. Kerzman		
Rep. Kreidt			Rep. Metcalf		
Rep. Nelson			Nop. Metcan		_
Rep. Wieland				╅╾╼╅╌	
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the vote is on an amen	dment, briefly indicate	intent			

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 10, 2009 9:23 a.m.

Module No: HR-42-4417 Carrier: Dosch Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2118: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (21 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2118 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2118

House Bill 2118 Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

by Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator

Good Evening, Chairman Devers and members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. For the record, my name is Sally Holewa. I am the state court administrator.

I am here today to present Senate Bill 2118 and to testify in favor of its passage.

The bill before you is a request to increase juror compensation. Our current compensation rate, established in 2001, is \$25 for the first day of service and \$50 for each subsequent day. Our request is to change the compensation rate to allow us to pay \$50 for the first day of service, if the juror is at the courthouse for four hours or more. Jurors would continue to be paid \$25 if they served less than four hours on the first day.

Our jury system relies on ordinary citizens to donate their time and talent when they are called to serve. Juror compensation is not intended to fully replace lost wages incurred from serving on jury duty, but it is intended to provide a stipend for services, as well as defraying incidental expenses related to that service for things such as child or respite care costs, parking and meals. We believe that a juror who

serves more than half a day on the first day of service should be entitled to the same compensation they would receive if they had to come back for a second day.

On average, 636 people per month report for jury service. A number of those potential jurors are released from service before noon because they were not selected to serve, because a jury was selected before their name was reached, or because the case settled prior to the seating of a jury.

Adjusting the compensation rate for those who serve more than 4 hours on the first day represents an increase of approximately \$38,000 per year (\$76,320 for the biennium). We feel that this is a modest and sustainable increase that will put our compensation at a level that is closer to the actual costs our citizens are paying when they serve on a case.

Juror satisfaction is important to us. We recognize that while jury service may be compulsory, it need not be unduly onerous. Over the years, we have taken a number of steps to reduce the burden on jurors, including raising jury fees, limiting the number of jurors who are called for jury selection, and capping the amount of time that potential jurors must make themselves available for service. Equal pay for all days spent on jury duty is one more step in increasing juror satisfaction.



House Bill 2118 Senate Appropriations

by Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator

Good Afternoon, Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. For the record, my name is Sally Holewa. I am the state court administrator.

I am here today to testify in favor of SB 2118.

The bill before you is a request to increase juror compensation. Our current compensation rate, established in 2001, is \$25 for the first day of service and \$50 for each subsequent day. Our request is to change the compensation rate to allow us to pay \$50 for the first day of service, if the juror is at the courthouse for four hours or more. Jurors would continue to be paid \$25 if they served less than four hours on the first day.

Our jury system relies on ordinary citizens to donate their time and talent when they are called to serve. While jury service may be compulsory, it need not be unduly onerous. Over the years, we have taken a number of steps to reduce the burden on jurors, including raising jury fees, limiting the number of jurors who are called for jury selection, and capping the amount of time that potential jurors must make themselves available for service.

Juror compensation is not intended to fully replace lost wages incurred from serving on jury duty, but it is intended to provide a stipend for services, as well as defraying incidental expenses related to that service for things such as child or respite care costs, parking and meals. We believe that a juror who serves more than half a day on the first day of service should be entitled to the same compensation they would receive if they had to come back for a second day.

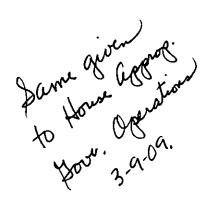
On average, 636 people per month report for jury service. A number of those potential jurors are released from service before noon because they were not selected to serve, because a jury was selected before their name was reached, or because the case settled prior to the seating.

Adjusting the compensation rate for those who serve more than four hours on the first day represents an increase of approximately \$38,000 per year (\$76,320 for the biennium). We feel that this is a modest and sustainable increase that will put our compensation at a level that is closer to the actual costs our citizens are paying when they serve on a case.

Thank you.

Senate Bill 2118 House Judiciary

Testimony by Sally Holewa State Court Administrator March 4, 2009



Good morning Chairman DeKrey and members of the House Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Sally Holewa. I am the state court administrator.

I am here today to present SB 2118. The bill before you is a request to increase juror compensation. Our current compensation rate, established in 2001, is \$25 for the first day of service and \$50 for each subsequent day. Our request is to change the compensation rate to allow us to pay \$50 for the first day of service, if the juror is at the courthouse for 4 hours or more. Jurors would continue to be paid \$25 if they served less than 4 hours on the first day.

Our jury system relies on ordinary citizens to donate their time and talent when they are called to serve. While jury service may be compulsory, it need not be unduly onerous. Over the years, we have taken a number of steps to reduce the burden on jurors, including raising jury fees, limiting the number of jurors who are called for jury selection, and capping the amount of time that potential jurors must make themselves available for service.

Juror compensation is not intended to fully replace lost wages incurred from serving on jury duty, but it is intended to provide a stipend for services, as well as defraying incidental expenses related to that service for things such as child or respite care costs, parking and meals. We believe that a juror who serves more than half a day on the first day of service should be entitled to the same compensation they would receive if they had to come back for a second day.

On average, 636 people per month report for jury service. A number of those potential jurors are released from service before noon because they were not selected to serve, because a jury was selected before their name was reached, or because the case settled prior to the seating.

Adjusting the compensation rate for those who serve more than 4 hours on the first day represents an increase of approximately \$38,000 per year (\$76,320 for the biennium). We feel that this is a modest and sustainable increase that will put our compensation at a level that is closer to the actual costs our citizens are paying when they serve on a case.