

By: Birdwell
(Anderson)

S.B. No. 1179

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedure for donating juror reimbursements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 61.003(a) and (e), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) After jury service is concluded, each ~~[Each]~~ person who reported ~~[reports]~~ for jury service shall be personally provided a form letter that when signed by the person directs the county treasurer to donate all, or a specific amount designated by the person, of the person's daily reimbursement under this chapter to:

(1) the compensation to victims of crime fund established under Subchapter J, Chapter 56B, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(2) the child welfare, child protective services, or child services board of the county appointed under Section 264.005, Family Code, that serves abused and neglected children;

(3) any program selected by the commissioners court that is operated by a public or private nonprofit organization and that provides shelter and services to victims of family violence;

(4) any other program approved by the commissioners court of the county, including a program established under Article 56A.205, Code of Criminal Procedure, that offers psychological counseling in criminal cases involving graphic evidence or testimony; or

1 (5) a veterans treatment court program established by
2 the commissioners court as provided by Chapter 124.

3 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a county that has
4 adopted a system or method of payment authorized by Section
5 113.048, Local Government Code, may provide a person who reported
6 [~~reports~~] for jury service in the county an opportunity to donate
7 all, or a specific part designated by the juror, of the juror's
8 daily reimbursement by completing a self-executing application on a
9 form prescribed by the commissioners court that is provided after
10 jury service is concluded.

11 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a person summoned to
12 appear for jury service who is required to appear on or after the
13 effective date of this Act. A person summoned to appear for jury
14 service who is required to appear before the effective date of this
15 Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the
16 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
17 effect for that purpose.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.