

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1675
By: Hinojosa
Jurisprudence
9/23/2009
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Jurors currently have the option of donating the daily reimbursement that they receive for jury service to one of several causes. One of the options they have is to donate to their county's child welfare board. Most people are not familiar with their county's child welfare board and they do not understand its function. Child welfare boards are composed of volunteers appointed by the county commissioners to assist in supporting the work of Child Protective Services and the children they serve. Child welfare boards host caseworker appreciation activities and child abuse prevention events, provide needed items for children, assist with the adoption of foster children, and offer other additional activities.

Additionally, the term "welfare" does not adequately reflect the child welfare board's work with child protection and often is confused with traditional definitions of welfare. The child welfare boards have found that the negative connotation the term "welfare" bears to some individuals diverts needed community support from the boards.

S.B. 1675 amends current law relating to donations of juror reimbursements.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Reenacts and amends Section 61.003(a), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 661 (H.B.1204) and 1378 (S.B. 560), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, to require each person who reports for jury service to 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 the child welfare, child protective services, or child services board of the county appointed under Section 264.005 (County Child Welfare Bonds), Family Code, that serves abused and neglected children.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 61.003, Government Code, by adding Subsection (a-2), to require that the form letter provided under Subsection (a) (regarding entitlements to reimbursement for a person reporting for jury duty) contain a brief description of the programs designated for donation under that subsection.

SECTION 3. Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies only to donations from jurors appearing in response to a summons issued on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2009.