

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to methods of payment for reimbursement of jury service expenses.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 113, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 113.048 to read as follows:

Sec. 113.048. DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY FOR JURY SERVICE.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter or other law to the contrary, a county treasurer may disburse to a person who reports for jury service and discharges the person's duty the daily amount of reimbursement for jury service expenses set by the commissioners court under Section 61.001, Government Code, by:

(1) using an electronic funds transfer system in accordance with Chapter 156;

(2) using a cash dispensing machine;

(3) issuing a debit card or a stored value card; or

(4) using any other method that the county treasurer and the commissioners court determine is secure, accurate, and cost-effective and that is convenient for persons who report for jury service.

(b) A system or method of payment adopted by a county treasurer under Subsection (a) may be implemented only if it is approved by the commissioners court and administered in accordance

1 with the procedures established by the county auditor or by the
2 chief financial officer of a county that does not have a county
3 auditor.

4 (c) A system or method of payment authorized by this section
5 may be used in lieu of or in addition to the issuance of warrants or
6 checks authorized under this subchapter.

7 SECTION 2. Subsection (f), Section 61.001, Government Code,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 (f) A reimbursement for expenses under this section is not a
10 property right of a person who reports for jury service for purposes
11 of Chapters 72 and 74, Property Code. If a check, ~~[or other]~~
12 instrument, or other method of payment authorized under Section
13 113.048, Local Government Code, representing a reimbursement under
14 this section is not presented for payment or redeemed before the
15 90th day after it is issued:

16 (1) the instrument or other method of payment is
17 considered forfeited and is void; and

18 (2) the money represented by the instrument or other
19 method of payment may be placed or retained in the county's jury
20 fund, the county's general fund, or any other fund in which county
21 funds can be legally placed, at the discretion of the commissioners
22 court.

23 SECTION 3. Section 61.003, Government Code, is amended by
24 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

25 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a county that has
26 adopted a system or method of payment authorized by Section
27 113.048, Local Government Code, may provide a person who reports

1 for jury service in the county an opportunity to donate all, or a
2 specific part designated by the juror, of the juror's daily
3 reimbursement by completing a self-executing application on a form
4 prescribed by the commissioners court.

5 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
6 a disbursement for the reimbursement for jury service expenses on
7 or after the effective date of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.