

By: Carona

S.B. No. 397

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to methods of payment for reimbursement of jury service  
3 expenses.

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

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

7 Sec. 113.048. DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY FOR JURY SERVICE. (a)  
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter or other law  
9 to the contrary, a county treasurer may disburse to a person who  
10 reports for jury service and discharges the person's duty the daily  
11 amount of reimbursement for jury service expenses set by the  
12 commissioners court under Section 61.001, Government Code, by:

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

15 (2) using a cash dispensing machine;

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

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

21 (b) A system or method of payment adopted by a county  
22 treasurer under Subsection (a) may be implemented only if it is  
23 approved by the commissioners court and administered in accordance  
24 with the procedures established by the county auditor or by the

1 chief financial officer of a county that does not have a county  
2 auditor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a county that has  
25 adopted a system or method of payment authorized by Section  
26 113.048, Local Government Code, may provide a person who reports  
27 for jury service in the county an opportunity to donate all, or a

1 specific part designated by the juror, of the juror's daily  
2 reimbursement by completing a self-executing application on a form  
3 prescribed by the commissioners court.

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

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