

1-1 By: Carona S.B. No. 397
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 5, 2009; February 17, 2009,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental
1-4 Relations; March 9, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; March 9, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to methods of payment for reimbursement of jury service
1-9 expenses.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 113, Local Government
1-12 Code, is amended by adding Section 113.048 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 113.048. DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY FOR JURY SERVICE.

1-14 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter or
1-15 other law to the contrary, a county treasurer may disburse to a
1-16 person who reports for jury service and discharges the person's
1-17 duty the daily amount of reimbursement for jury service expenses
1-18 set by the commissioners court under Section 61.001, Government
1-19 Code, by:

1-20 (1) using an electronic funds transfer system in
1-21 accordance with Chapter 156;

1-22 (2) using a cash dispensing machine;

1-23 (3) issuing a debit card or a stored value card; or

1-24 (4) using any other method that the county treasurer

1-25 and the commissioners court determine is secure, accurate, and
1-26 cost-effective and that is convenient for persons who report for
1-27 jury service.

1-28 (b) A system or method of payment adopted by a county
1-29 treasurer under Subsection (a) may be implemented only if it is
1-30 approved by the commissioners court and administered in accordance
1-31 with the procedures established by the county auditor or by the
1-32 chief financial officer of a county that does not have a county
1-33 auditor.

1-34 (c) A system or method of payment authorized by this section
1-35 may be used in lieu of or in addition to the issuance of warrants or
1-36 checks authorized under this subchapter.

1-37 SECTION 2. Subsection (f), Section 61.001, Government Code,
1-38 is amended to read as follows:

1-39 (f) A reimbursement for expenses under this section is not a
1-40 property right of a person who reports for jury service for purposes
1-41 of Chapters 72 and 74, Property Code. If a check, ~~or other~~
1-42 instrument, or other method of payment authorized under Section
1-43 113.048, Local Government Code, representing a reimbursement under
1-44 this section is not presented for payment or redeemed before the
1-45 90th day after it is issued:

1-46 (1) the instrument or other method of payment is
1-47 considered forfeited and is void; and

1-48 (2) the money represented by the instrument or other
1-49 method of payment may be placed or retained in the county's jury
1-50 fund, the county's general fund, or any other fund in which county
1-51 funds can be legally placed, at the discretion of the commissioners
1-52 court.

1-53 SECTION 3. Section 61.003, Government Code, is amended by
1-54 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

1-55 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a county that has
1-56 adopted a system or method of payment authorized by Section
1-57 113.048, Local Government Code, may provide a person who reports
1-58 for jury service in the county an opportunity to donate all, or a
1-59 specific part designated by the juror, of the juror's daily
1-60 reimbursement by completing a self-executing application on a form
1-61 prescribed by the commissioners court.

1-62 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
1-63 a disbursement for the reimbursement for jury service expenses on
1-64 or after the effective date of this Act.

2-1 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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