

By: Bonnen

H.B. No. 4088

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications for jury service and the establishment of a juror mental health services reimbursement program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 61.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.004. JUROR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT.

To the extent funds are appropriated to the Health and Human Services Commission for the juror mental health services reimbursement program established under Subchapter J, Chapter 547, a court presiding over a trial involving a defendant charged with an offense under Chapter 19, 20, 21, 22, or 25, Penal Code, shall, for each person selected to serve as a juror or alternate juror in the trial:

(1) advise the person in writing about the availability of the juror mental health services reimbursement program established under Subchapter J, Chapter 547; and

(2) provide the person with a certificate of attendance at the completion of the trial that includes:

(A) the person's name;

(B) the name of the court;

(C) the dates of the person's jury service; and

(D) each offense under Chapter 19, 20, 21, 22, or

25, Penal Code, with which the defendant was charged.

SECTION 2. Section 62.102, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 62.102. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE. A person is disqualified to serve as a petit juror unless the person:

(1) is at least 18 years of age;
(2) is a citizen of the United States;
(3) is a resident of this state and of the county in which the person is to serve as a juror;

(4) is qualified under the constitution and laws to vote in the county in which the person is to serve as a juror;

(5) is of sound mind and good moral character;

(6) is able to read and write;

(7) has not served as a petit juror for six days during the preceding three months in the county court or during the preceding six months in the district court;

(8) has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a felony; ~~and~~

(9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or a felony; and

(10) has not served as a petit juror for three consecutive months during the preceding 60 months in the county court or district court.

SECTION 3. Chapter 547, Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. JUROR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 547.0451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1 (1) "Mental health professional" has the meaning
2 assigned by Section 164.003, Health and Safety Code.

3 (2) "Mental health services" has the meaning assigned
4 by Section 531.002, Health and Safety Code.

5 (3) "Program" means the juror mental health services
6 reimbursement program established under this subchapter.

7 Sec. 547.0452. JUROR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT
8 PROGRAM. (a) To the extent funds are appropriated to the
9 commission for that purpose, the commission shall establish a juror
10 mental health services reimbursement program to reimburse a
11 person's cost of obtaining mental health services related to the
12 person's service as a juror or alternate juror in a criminal trial
13 that involved a defendant charged with an offense under Chapter 19,
14 20, 21, 22, or 25, Penal Code.

15 (b) A person is eligible to receive a payment under the
16 program in the amount of \$150 if the person:

17 (1) served as a juror or alternate juror on a criminal
18 trial that involved a defendant charged with an offense under
19 Chapter 19, 20, 21, 22, or 25, Penal Code, in the 12 months
20 immediately preceding the person's application for reimbursement
21 under the program;

22 (2) provides the commission the certificate of
23 attendance described by Section 61.004 for the trial described by
24 Subdivision (1);

25 (3) obtained mental health services from a mental
26 health professional related to the trial described by Subdivision
27 (1); and

1 (4) provides the commission proof of payment for the
2 mental health services described by Subdivision (3).

3 (c) The commission shall provide to an eligible person the
4 payment not later than the 90th day after the date the commission
5 receives the person's application for reimbursement under the
6 program.

7 (d) The commission shall publish information about the
8 program on the commission's Internet website, including:

9 (1) a description of the eligibility requirements;

10 (2) a description of mental health services eligible
11 for reimbursement;

12 (3) instructions for submitting an application; and

13 (4) a list of mental health resources.

14 (e) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement
15 the program under this section.

16 SECTION 4. Section [62.102](#), Government Code, as amended by
17 this Act, applies only to the qualifications of a person summoned
18 for jury service on or after the effective date of this Act. The
19 qualifications of a person summoned for jury service before the
20 effective date of this Act are governed by the law in effect on the
21 date the summons was made, and the former law is continued in effect
22 for that purpose.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.