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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-1101 Date: March 27, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Martinez Humenik Bill Status: Senate Judiciary
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Bill Topic: INCREASE JUROR COMPENSATION

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill increases the rate of compensation for jurors. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$587,394 to the Judicial Department.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 18-212

Table with 4 columns: Category, FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20, FY 2019-20. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, trial and grand jurors are entitled to compensation of up to \$50 per day. The bill increases this compensation to up to a daily maximum of the state minimum wage plus \$1, times 8 hours. In addition, current law allows unemployed jurors to receive out-of-pocket expenses of up to \$50 per day and allows the court to make payments above this amount. This bill changes the cap on these reimbursements to align with an amount equal to 8 hours of the state's minimum wage each day.

State Expenditures

This bill increases state General Fund expenditures in the Judicial Department by \$587,394 in FY 2018-19, by \$780,880 in FY 2019-20, and by \$864,339 in FY 2020-21.

Juror service payments. Currently, jurors receive \$50 per day beginning on their fourth day of service, with some self-employed jurors receiving this amount for the first three days of service. During FY 2016-17, the Judicial Department issued a total of 15,499 juror service fee payments. These payments were used to estimate the fiscal impact of the bill and include the increases in the state's minimum wage through January 1, 2020. Beginning on January 1, 2021, expenditures assume a 3.7 percent increase as a proxy for inflation. For FY 2018-19, juror payments are prorated based on a September 1, 2018, effective date. Table 2 shows the calculations for juror payments.

**Table 2
 Juror Payments Under SB 18-212**

	Total Juror Payments in FY 2016-17	Total Payments in FY 2016-17	Rate	Costs under SB18-212	Funding Required
9/1/18 - 12/31/18	5,719	\$285,950	\$89.60	\$512,422	\$226,472
1/1/19 - 6/30/19	7,712	\$385,600	\$96.80	\$746,522	\$360,922
Total FY 2018-19					\$587,394
7/1/19 - 12/31/19	7,787	\$389,350	\$96.80	\$753,782	\$364,432
1/1/20 - 6/30/20	7,712	\$385,600	\$104.00	\$802,048	\$416,448
Total FY 2019-20					\$780,880
7/1/20 - 12/31/20	7,787	\$389,350	\$104.00	\$809,848	\$420,498
1/1/21 - 6/30/21	7,712	\$385,600	\$107.55	\$829,441	\$443,841
Total FY 2020-21					\$864,339

Unemployed jurors. The portion of the bill that increases the cap on reimbursements made available to unemployed persons has not been estimated. Under current law, the court already has the discretion to increase this payment, which is made to reimburse actual expenses, rather than as a fixed amount. To the extent that the bill changes how much the courts reimburse unemployed jurors compared to current law, the Judicial Department can request any required additional appropriations through the annual budget process.

Computer system modifications. Changes are required to modify juror payment calculations. This work can be accomplished within the normal course of business without additional appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect September 1, 2018, if no referendum petition is filed. It applies to juror service on or after the bill's effective date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation of \$587,394 General Fund to the Judicial Department.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial