

JUROR AND WITNESS FEES AMENDMENTS

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides limits to costs for jurors and witnesses in state courts to only those authorized by statute.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides that costs for jurors and witnesses are limited to what is authorized by statute; and

- ▶ requires a report on certain costs to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee each year.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

78B-1-117, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **78B-1-117** is amended to read:

78B-1-117. Jurors and witnesses -- State payment for jurors and subpoenaed persons -- Appropriations and costs -- Expenses in justice court.

(1) The state is responsible for payment of all fees and expenses authorized by law for

30 prosecution witnesses, witnesses subpoenaed by indigent defendants, and interpreter costs in
31 criminal actions in the courts of record and actions in the juvenile court. The state is
32 responsible for payment of all fees and expenses authorized by law for jurors in the courts of
33 record. For these payments, the Judicial Council shall receive an annual appropriation
34 contained in a separate line item appropriation.

35 (2) If expenses, for the purposes of this section, exceed the line item appropriation, the
36 administrator of the courts shall submit a claim against the state to the Board of Examiners and
37 request the board to recommend and submit a supplemental appropriation request to the
38 Legislature for the deficit incurred.

39 (3) In the justice courts, the fees, mileage, and other expenses authorized by law for
40 jurors, prosecution witnesses, witnesses subpoenaed by indigent defendants, and interpreter
41 costs shall be paid by the municipality if the action is prosecuted by the city attorney, and by
42 the county if the action is prosecuted by the county attorney or district attorney.

43 (4) Beginning July 1, 2014, the administrator of the courts shall provide a report during
44 each interim to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee
45 detailing expenses, trends, and efforts made to minimize expenses and maximize performance
46 of the costs under this section.

47 (5) The funding of additional full-time equivalent employees shall be authorized by the
48 Legislature through specific intent language.