

ACT No. 242

HOUSE BILL NO. 905

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYD, CARVER, CHASSION, COX, DAVIS, DEWITT, DOMANGUE, FISHER, GREEN, HILFERTY, HUGHES, ILLG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MILLER, MOORE, MYERS, RISER, SELDERS, STAGNI, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WYBLE, AND ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:3049.2, relative to juror per diem compensation in the Nineteenth Judicial
3 District Court; to establish a two-year pilot program that enables jurors to voluntarily
4 donate their per diem compensation to certain organizations; to provide for the use
5 of donations; to exempt certain information from public records; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:3049.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3049.2. Nineteenth Judicial District; pilot program; donation of juror per diem;
10 procedures

11 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person serving
12 as a juror in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court may elect to donate their entire
13 juror per diem compensation to an organization that meets either of the following
14 criteria:

15 (1) Formally recognized under Children's Code Article 424 for its role in
16 advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system.

17 (2) Specifically designated as the Capital Area Court Appointed Special
18 Advocates (CASA).

19 B. The clerk of court for the Nineteenth Judicial District Court shall provide
20 each juror with an option to donate their per diem compensation to the designated
21 organization as described in Subsection A of this Section at the time of juror
22 orientation or at another appropriate time during the juror service process. The
23 option to donate shall be voluntary and presented in a manner that ensures informed
24 consent of the juror.

1 C. The clerk of court shall establish procedures for the collection and timely
 2 distribution of donated per diem compensations to the designated organization.
 3 These procedures shall include provisions for donor acknowledgment and
 4 compliance with financial management standards. A form shall be presented to each
 5 person registered for the jury pool which provides the mission of CASA and offers
 6 the jurors the voluntary option to assign all fees due them as a tax-deductible
 7 donation to CASA.

8 D. The pilot program in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court is established
 9 as a voluntary option for jurors to support a court-related nonprofit organization with
 10 the Nineteenth Judicial District Court Jury Office facilitating the consolidation of
 11 individual juror payments into a monthly payment to CASA. The Juror Office shall
 12 send a monthly check to CASA and provide the list of the names, addresses, and
 13 amounts for participating jurors to allow CASA to mail a tax-deductible receipt for
 14 their donation. Information provided by the Juror Office to CASA shall remain
 15 confidential and not subject to disclosure under the public records law.

16 E.(1) CASA shall be designated exclusively for donations due to its
 17 court-related advocacy and purpose during the two-year pilot program.

18 (2) A designated organization receiving donations under this Section shall
 19 utilize the donations exclusively for supporting its mission within the jurisdiction of
 20 the Nineteenth Judicial District.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____