

2024 Regular Session

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.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_