



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB1548

Introduced 2/9/2007, by Sen. Kirk W. Dillard

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Counties Code. Creates the Lengthy Trial Fund. Provides that the Fund shall be used to provide full or partial wage replacement or wage supplementation to jurors who serve as petit jurors for more than 10 days. Provides that a fee of \$10, which shall be paid to the clerk of the court for deposit into the Fund, shall be charged to each attorney who files a civil case or a pleading in response to a complaint. Amends the Jury Act. Provides that jurors shall not be required or requested to use annual, vacation, or sick leave for time spent responding to a summons for jury duty, time spent participating in the jury selection process, or time spent actually serving on a jury. Provides that an employer may not subject an employee to any adverse employment action by reason of the employee's jury service. Provides that a court shall automatically postpone and reschedule the service of a summoned juror who is employed by an employer with 5 or fewer full-time employees, or the equivalent, if another employee of that employer is summoned to appear during the same period. Provides that an individual may be excused from jury service for a period of up to 24 months, instead of seeking postponement, under the listed circumstances. Raises the fees for failure to attend when summoned to appear as a grand or petit juror to any sum not more than \$500 (instead of \$100). Amends the State Finance Act to create the Lengthy Trial Fund. Makes other changes. Effective July 1, 2007.

LRB095 10978 AJ0 31283 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning juries.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section  
5 4-11001.5 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/4-11001.5 new)

7 Sec. 4-11001.5. Lengthy Trial Fund.

8 (a) The Lengthy Trial Fund shall be established as a  
9 special Fund in the State treasury that shall be used to  
10 provide full or partial wage replacement or wage  
11 supplementation to jurors who serve as petit jurors for more  
12 than 10 days.

13 (b) The Supreme Court shall adopt rules providing for the  
14 following:

15 (1) the selection and appointment of an Administrator  
16 for the Fund;

17 (2) procedures for its administration that provide  
18 that monies in the Fund shall be used to make wage  
19 replacement or wage supplementation as provided in this  
20 Section to jurors participating on juries in trials where  
21 jury service extends 11 days or longer and to recover all  
22 the costs of administering the Fund, including payments of  
23 salaries of the Administrator and other necessary

1 personnel;

2 (3) the accounting, auditing, and investment of money  
3 in the Lengthy Trial Fund in accordance with State law  
4 pertaining to similar funds; and

5 (4) the inclusion of a report by the Supreme Court of  
6 Illinois on the administration of the Lengthy Trial Fund in  
7 its annual report on the judicial branch, setting forth the  
8 money collected for and disbursed from the Fund.

9 (c) Notwithstanding any other compensation or fees payable  
10 under the laws of this State, each trial court in the State  
11 shall collect from each attorney who files a civil case or  
12 files a pleading in response to a complaint, unless otherwise  
13 exempted under the provisions of this Section, a fee of \$10 per  
14 case to be paid to the clerk of the court for deposit into the  
15 Lengthy Trial Fund. A lawyer will be deemed to have "filed a  
16 case" at the time the first pleading or other filing on which  
17 an individual lawyer's name appears is submitted to the court  
18 for filing and opens a new case. All fees collected under this  
19 subsection (c) shall be forwarded by the clerk of the court to  
20 the Administrator of the Lengthy Trial Fund for deposit.

21 (d) The Administrator shall, on or before the fifteenth of  
22 each month, transmit all monies received from any clerk of the  
23 court to the State Treasurer for deposit into the Lengthy Trial  
24 Fund.

25 (e) The Administrator shall use the fees deposited in the  
26 Lengthy Trial Fund to pay supplemental or full wage replacement

1 to jurors whose employers pay less than full regular wages when  
2 the period of jury service reaches the 11th day and thereafter.

3 (f) Not more than 3% of the monies in the Lengthy Trial  
4 Fund may be used for the reasonable and necessary costs of  
5 administering the Fund.

6 (g) The court may pay replacement or supplemental wages of  
7 up to \$300 per day per juror beginning on the 11th day of jury  
8 service. In addition, for any jurors who qualify for payment by  
9 virtue of having served on a jury for more than 10 days, the  
10 court may, upon finding that the service posed a significant  
11 financial hardship to a juror, even in light of payments made  
12 with respect to jury service after the tenth day, award  
13 replacement or supplemental wages of up to \$100 per day from  
14 the 4th to the 10th day of jury service.

15 (h) Any juror who is serving or has served on a jury that  
16 qualifies for payment from the Lengthy Trial Fund, provided the  
17 service commenced on or after the effective date of this Act,  
18 may submit a request for payment from the Lengthy Trial Fund on  
19 a form that the Administrator provides. Payment shall be  
20 limited to the difference between the State-paid jury fee and  
21 the actual amount of wages a juror earns, up to the maximum  
22 level payable, minus any amount the juror actually receives  
23 from the employer during the same time period.

24 The form shall disclose the juror's regular wages, the  
25 amount the employer will pay during the term of jury service  
26 starting on the 11th day and thereafter, the amount of

1 replacement or supplemental wages requested, and any other  
2 information the Administrator deems necessary for proper  
3 payment.

4 The juror also shall be required to submit verification  
5 from the employer as to the wage information provided to the  
6 Administrator, for example, the employee's most recent  
7 earnings statement or similar document, prior to initiation of  
8 payment from the Fund.

9 If an individual is self-employed or receives compensation  
10 other than wages, the individual may provide a sworn affidavit  
11 attesting to his or her approximate gross weekly income,  
12 together with any other information that the Administrator may  
13 require, in order to verify weekly income.

14 Documents submitted pursuant to this subsection (h) are not  
15 public records and shall not be disclosed to the general  
16 public.

17 (i) The following attorneys and causes of action are exempt  
18 from payment of the Lengthy Trial Fund fee:

19 (1) government attorneys entering appearances in the  
20 course of their official duties;

21 (2) pro se litigants;

22 (3) cases in small claims court; or

23 (4) claims seeking social security disability  
24 determinations; individual veterans' compensation or  
25 disability determinations; recoupment actions for  
26 government backed educational loans or mortgages; child

1 custody and support cases; actions brought in forma  
2 pauperis; and any other filings designated by rule that  
3 involve minimal use of court resources and that customarily  
4 are not afforded the opportunity for a trial by jury.

5 Section 10. The Jury Act is amended by changing Sections  
6 4.1, 5, 8, 10.2, and 15 and by adding Section 10.4 as follows:

7 (705 ILCS 305/4.1) (from Ch. 78, par. 4.1)

8 Sec. 4.1. Jury duty; notice to employer; right to time off.

9 (a) Any person who is not legally disqualified to serve on  
10 juries, and has been duly summoned for jury duty for either  
11 petit or grand jury service, shall not be required or requested  
12 to use annual, vacation, or sick leave for time spent  
13 responding to a summons for jury duty, time spent participating  
14 in the jury selection process, or time spent actually serving  
15 on a jury ~~be given time off from employment to serve upon the~~  
16 ~~jury~~ for which such employee is summoned, regardless of the  
17 employment shift such employee is assigned to at the time of  
18 service of such summons. An employee shall give his employer  
19 reasonable notice of required jury service. An employer may not  
20 deny an employee time off for jury duty because such employee  
21 is then assigned to work a night shift of employment, that is,  
22 an employer cannot require a night shift worker to work while  
23 such employee is doing jury duty in the daytime.

24 Nothing in this subsection (a) shall be construed to

1 require an employer to provide annual, vacation, or sick leave  
2 to employees under the provision of this Act who otherwise are  
3 not entitled to such benefits under company policies.

4 (b) No employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge,  
5 intimidate, or otherwise subject ~~or coerce~~ any employee to any  
6 other adverse employment action by reason of the employee's  
7 jury service, or the attendance or scheduled attendance in  
8 connection with such service, in any court of this State.

9 (c) If an employee gives reasonable notice of required jury  
10 service, any employer who violates the provisions of this  
11 Section:

12 (1) may be charged with contempt of court. In such an  
13 event, the State's Attorney shall file a petition for civil  
14 contempt, criminal contempt, or both, against the employer  
15 to be prosecuted by the State's Attorney; and

16 (2) shall be liable for damages for any loss of wages  
17 or other benefits suffered by an employee by reason of the  
18 violation; and

19 (3) may be enjoined from further violations of this  
20 Section and ordered to reinstate any employee discharged by  
21 reason of jury service.

22 As used in this Section, "reasonable notice of required  
23 jury service" means that the employee summoned for jury duty  
24 must deliver to the employer a copy of the summons within 10  
25 days of the date of issuance of the summons to the employee.

26 (d) Any individual who is reinstated to a position of

1 employment in accordance with this Section shall be considered  
2 as having been on furlough or leave of absence during his  
3 period of jury service, shall be reinstated to his position of  
4 employment without loss of seniority, and shall be entitled to  
5 participate in insurance or other benefits offered by the  
6 employer under established rules and practices relating to  
7 employees on furlough or leave of absence in effect with the  
8 employer at the time the individual entered upon jury service.

9 (e) In any action or proceeding under this Section, the  
10 court may award a prevailing employee who brings the action by  
11 retained counsel a reasonable attorney's fee.

12 (f) Any right or remedy provided in this Section is in  
13 addition to any right or remedy otherwise provided by law to an  
14 employee.

15 (g) No employer shall be obligated to compensate an  
16 employee for time taken off for jury duty.

17 (g-5) A court shall automatically postpone and reschedule  
18 the service of a summoned juror who is employed by an employer  
19 with 5 or fewer full-time employees, or the equivalent, if  
20 another employee of that employer is summoned to appear during  
21 the same period. The postponement will not constitute the  
22 excused individual's right to one automatic postponement  
23 pursuant to Section 10.4 of this Act.

24 (h) The official responsible for issuing the summons may  
25 advise the juror of his rights under this Act by printed insert  
26 with the summons or on the summons itself.



1 (Source: P.A. 86-1395; 87-616.)

2 (705 ILCS 305/5) (from Ch. 78, par. 5)

3 Sec. 5. Subsequent selection of jurors; length of service.

4 (a) At the time of making such selection, the name of the  
5 person selected shall be checked off from such list, and shall  
6 not be again selected as a juror till every person named upon  
7 such list qualified to serve as a juror has been selected; and  
8 all subsequent selections of jurors by such board shall be made  
9 from such list until all persons thereon qualified to serve  
10 have been selected, or until a new list is made: Provided, if  
11 any person who has been selected as a juror shall not have been  
12 drawn, or have served upon a jury during the year for which he  
13 was selected, he shall, if qualified, be selected for the next  
14 year.

15 (b) In counties with populations greater than 100,000,  
16 service of prospective petit jurors shall be for no more than 1  
17 court day in actual attendance, unless a prospective petit  
18 juror is selected to serve in a trial or is under consideration  
19 to serve on a trial and such consideration covers a period of 2  
20 or more days. Once selected, a petit juror shall serve on the  
21 jury for the duration of the trial unless excused by the  
22 presiding judge.

23 (Source: P.A. 86-1053.)

24 (705 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 78, par. 8)

1           Sec. 8. Selection from box.

2           (a) Upon a day designated by the judge of the court, which  
3 shall be at least 20 days before the first day for which any of  
4 the panel then to be drawn is summoned, the clerk of such court  
5 shall repair to the office of the county clerk, and in the  
6 presence of a judge and of such county clerk, after the box  
7 containing the names has been well shaken by the county clerk,  
8 and being blindfolded shall, without partiality, draw from such  
9 box the names of a sufficient number of such persons, then  
10 residents of the county, not less than 30 for each 2 weeks that  
11 such court will probably be in session for the trial of common  
12 law cases, to constitute the petit jurors for the time being  
13 and where there is an additional judge in such court, a like  
14 number for each additional judge requiring a jury, unless the  
15 court shall otherwise order: Provided, that the clerk shall at  
16 any time, when directed by an order of the court draw in the  
17 manner above provided, such number of persons then residents of  
18 the county, as shall be required by the order to act as petit  
19 jurors in such court for such time as may be fixed in such  
20 order: And provided, that should the clerk draw from the box  
21 the name of a person who is known to be dead, to have been  
22 selected as a grand juror, a non-resident, absent from the  
23 State, ~~unable to attend in consequence of illness,~~ or that he  
24 is legally disqualified to serve as a juror, the clerk shall  
25 report the name of such person to the county clerk, and the  
26 clerk of such court shall draw other names until the required

1 number have been selected: Provided, also that whenever there  
2 is pending for trial in any of the courts, any criminal cause  
3 wherein the defendant is charged with a felony, and the judge  
4 holding such court is convinced from the circumstances of the  
5 case that a jury cannot be obtained from the regular panel to  
6 try the cause, the judge may in his discretion, prior to the  
7 day fixed for the trial of the cause, direct the clerk to draw  
8 (in the same manner as the regular panel is drawn,) not  
9 exceeding 100 names as a special panel from which a jury may be  
10 selected to try the cause.

11 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a),  
12 names of jurors may be randomly drawn by computer.

13 (Source: P.A. 86-1053.)

14 (705 ILCS 305/10.2) (from Ch. 78, par. 10.2)

15 Sec. 10.2. Excusing prospective jurors; hardship.

16 (a) An individual may apply to be excused from jury service  
17 for a period of up to 24 months, instead of seeking a  
18 postponement, when either:

19 (1) the prospective juror has a mental or physical  
20 condition that causes him or her to be incapable of  
21 performing jury service. The juror, or the juror's personal  
22 representative, must provide the court with documentation  
23 from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its  
24 branches verifying that a mental or physical condition  
25 renders the person unfit for jury service for a period not

1 less than the 24 month period for which the excuse is  
2 sought; or

3 (2) jury service would otherwise cause undue or extreme  
4 physical or financial hardship to the prospective juror or  
5 a person under his or her care or supervision. A judge of  
6 the court for which the individual was called to jury  
7 service shall make determinations regarding undue or  
8 extreme physical or financial hardship. The authority to  
9 make these determinations is delegable only to court  
10 officials or personnel who are authorized by the laws of  
11 this State to function as members of the judiciary.

12 (b) A person asking to be excused from jury service under  
13 this Section must take all actions necessary to have obtained a  
14 ruling on that request by no later than the date on which the  
15 individual is scheduled to appear for jury duty.

16 (c) For purposes of this Section, "undue or extreme  
17 physical or financial hardship" is limited to circumstances in  
18 which an individual would:

19 (1) be required to abandon a person under his or her  
20 personal care or supervision due to the impossibility of  
21 obtaining reasonable alternative care during the period of  
22 participation in the jury pool or on the jury; or

23 (2) incur costs that would have a substantial adverse  
24 impact on the payment of the individual's necessary daily  
25 living expenses or on those for whom he or she provides the  
26 principle means of support; or

1           (3) suffer physical hardship that would result in  
2           illness or disease.

3           "Undue or extreme physical or financial hardship" does not  
4           exist solely based on the fact that a prospective juror will be  
5           required to be absent from his or her place of employment. A  
6           person asking a judge to grant an excuse based on "undue or  
7           extreme physical or financial hardship" shall be required to  
8           provide the judge with documentation, such as, but not limited  
9           to, federal and State income tax returns, medical statements  
10           from licensed physicians, proof of dependency or guardianship,  
11           and similar documents, which the judge finds to clearly support  
12           the request to be excused. Failure to provide satisfactory  
13           documentation shall result in a denial of the request to be  
14           excused. These documents are not public records and shall not  
15           be disclosed to the general public.

16           (d) After 24 months, a person excused from jury service  
17           shall become eligible once again for qualification as a juror  
18           unless the person was excused from service permanently. A  
19           person is excused from jury service permanently only when the  
20           deciding judge determines that the underlying grounds for being  
21           excused are of a permanent nature.

22           ~~The county boards of the respective counties, the jury~~  
23           ~~commissioners for those counties which have been appointed~~  
24           ~~under the Jury Commission Act, or a jury administrator shall~~  
25           ~~submit questionnaires to prospective jurors to inquire as to~~  
26           ~~their qualifications for jury service and as to the hardship~~

1 ~~that jury service would pose to the prospective jurors. Upon~~  
2 ~~prior approval by the chief judge of the judicial circuits in~~  
3 ~~which a county board, jury administrator, or jury commissioners~~  
4 ~~are situated, the county board, jury administrator, or jury~~  
5 ~~commissioners shall excuse a prospective juror from jury~~  
6 ~~service if the prospective juror shows that such service would~~  
7 ~~impose an undue hardship on account of the nature of the~~  
8 ~~prospective juror's occupation, business affairs, physical~~  
9 ~~health, family situation, active duty in the Illinois National~~  
10 ~~Guard or Illinois Naval Militia, or other personal affairs, and~~  
11 ~~cause his or her name to be returned to the jury list or~~  
12 ~~general jury list.~~

13 ~~(b) When an undue hardship caused by a family situation is~~  
14 ~~due to the prospective juror being the primary care giver of a~~  
15 ~~person with a mental or physical disability, a person with a~~  
16 ~~medically diagnosed behavior problem, or a child under age 12,~~  
17 ~~then the county board, jury commissioners or jury administrator~~  
18 ~~shall excuse such a prospective juror, if it finds that no~~  
19 ~~reasonable alternative care is feasible which would not impose~~  
20 ~~an undue hardship on the prospective juror or the person for~~  
21 ~~whom the prospective juror is providing care, or both.~~

22 (Source: P.A. 90-482, eff. 1-1-98; 91-264, eff. 7-23-99.)

23 (705 ILCS 305/10.4 new)

24 Sec. 10.4. Postponement of jury service.

25 (a) Notwithstanding Section 10.2 or any other provision of

1 this Act, individuals scheduled to appear for jury service have  
2 the right to postpone the date of their initial appearance for  
3 jury service 1 time only. When requested, postponements shall  
4 be granted, provided that:

5 (1) the juror has not previously been granted a  
6 postponement;

7 (2) the prospective juror appears in person or contacts  
8 the clerk of the court by telephone, electronic mail, or in  
9 writing to request a postponement; and

10 (3) prior to the grant of a postponement with the  
11 concurrence of the clerk of the court, the prospective  
12 juror fixes a date certain on which he or she will appear  
13 for jury service that is not more than 6 months after the  
14 date on which the prospective juror originally was called  
15 to serve and on which date the court will be in session.

16 (b) A subsequent request to postpone jury service may be  
17 approved by a judicial officer only in the event of an extreme  
18 emergency, such as a death in the family, sudden illness, or a  
19 natural disaster or a national emergency in which the  
20 prospective juror is personally involved, that could not have  
21 been anticipated at the time the initial postponement was  
22 granted. Prior to the grant of a second postponement, the  
23 prospective juror must fix a date certain on which the  
24 individual will appear for jury service within 6 months of the  
25 postponement on a date when the court will be in session.

1 (705 ILCS 305/15) (from Ch. 78, par. 15)

2 Sec. 15. Failure to attend; contempt. Every person who  
3 shall fail to attend when lawfully summoned to appear as a  
4 grand or petit juror, without having properly obtained  
5 postponement or excuse pursuant to Sections 10.2 and 10.4 a  
6 reasonable excuse, shall be considered in civil ~~as guilty of a~~  
7 contempt, and shall be fined by the courts, respectively, in  
8 any sum not ~~less than \$5 nor~~ more than \$500 ~~\$100~~, for the use of  
9 the proper county, unless good cause be shown for such default;  
10 and it shall be the duty of the court to enter an order of  
11 attachment, returnable forthwith, against all such  
12 delinquents, and upon the return thereof the court shall  
13 proceed to assess the fine unless the person or persons so  
14 attached shall show good cause for such delinquency: Provided,  
15 that the oath or affirmation of any such delinquent shall, at  
16 all times, be received as competent evidence. In addition to,  
17 or in lieu of, the fine, the court may order that the  
18 prospective juror complete a period of community service for a  
19 period no less than if the prospective juror would have  
20 completed jury service, and provide proof of completion of this  
21 community service to the court.

22 (Source: P.A. 83-346.)

23 Section 15. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
24 Section 5.675 as follows:



1 (30 ILCS 105/5.675 new)

2 Sec. 5.675. The Lengthy Trial Fund.

3 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this  
4 amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly are severable under  
5 Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
7 2007.

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