

HB 1592-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2925
09/08

HOUSE BILL **1592-FN**
AN ACT relative to compensation for jurors.
SPONSORS: Rep. Oppel, Graf. 9
COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill changes the compensation of jurors to match the federal rate.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to compensation for jurors.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Jurors; Compensation for Jurors. Amend RSA 500-A:15 to read as follows:

2 500-A:15 Compensation of Jurors.

3 [F.] Grand and petit jurors' fees and mileage shall be paid by the state. The jurors' fees shall
4 be [~~\$10 for each half day's~~] ***the federal rate as established by 28 U.S.C. section 1871 for each***
5 ***day's*** attendance before a superior court; for each mile's travel to and from the place where the juror
6 serves, mileage shall be paid at the rate of \$.20 per mile, mileage to be allowed for each day's
7 attendance when the juror is required to leave the town or city in which he resides.

8 [H. ~~For the purposes of this section "attendance for a half day" means attendance either at~~
9 ~~the forenoon session or at the afternoon session.~~

10 [I. ~~The clerk of the court attended shall determine whether a juror has attended for a half~~
11 ~~day. Said clerk may count travel time to reach the place where the juror serves in determining~~
12 ~~attendance of the juror, if the juror is required to travel more than 50 miles one way by the most~~
13 ~~direct route to reach the court.~~

14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**HB 1592-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to compensation for jurors.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$371,000+	Indeterminable Increase \$740,000+	Indeterminable Increase \$740,000+
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill increases juror compensation to the federal daily juror rate under 28 U.S.C. 1871 (currently \$50 per day) and removes the distinction between half-day and full-day payments.

The Judicial Branch states this bill will result in an indeterminable increase in state General Fund expenditures, estimated at more than \$370,567 in FY 2027 and more than \$740,000 in FY 2028 and FY 2029. Under current law, jurors are paid \$10 for a half day and \$20 for a full day. In Calendar Year 2024, the Branch paid 12,304 jurors for 24,704.5 juror-days, totaling \$494,090 at the current rate of \$20 for a full day. At the required federal rate of \$50 per day, these payments would have been \$1,235,225, an annual increase of \$741,135.

Because the bill takes effect mid-year, FY 2027 reflects approximately half of a year's impact (more than \$370,567), with full costs (more than \$740,000) beginning in FY 2028. The Branch notes that federal juror compensation may increase in the future, which would automatically increase state costs.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch