

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1011

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, EDMONSTON, LACOMBE, AND OWEN

JURY DUTY: Permits jurors to donate their per diem compensation to the formal program of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:3049.2 and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(6), relative to juror per diem
3 compensation; to authorize jurors to voluntarily donate their per diem compensation
4 to court appointed special advocates; to provide for the use of the donations; to
5 exempt certain information from public records; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:3049.2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §3049.2. ~~Nineteenth Judicial District; pilot program; donation~~ Donation of juror per
9 diem; procedures

10 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person serving
11 as a juror in ~~the Nineteenth Judicial District Court~~ any judicial district court may
12 elect to donate their entire juror per diem compensation to the court-appointed
13 special advocate program (CASA), formally recognized pursuant to Children's Code
14 Article 424 et seq. an organization that meets either of the following 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~~ judicial
20 district court shall provide each juror with an option to donate their per diem
21 compensation to CASA ~~the designated organization as described in Subsection A of~~

1 ~~this Section~~ at the time of juror orientation or at another appropriate time during the
2 juror service process. The option to donate shall be voluntary and presented in a
3 manner that ensures informed consent of the juror.

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

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

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

22 (2) ~~A designated organization receiving donations under this Section~~ CASA
23 shall utilize the donations exclusively for supporting its mission ~~within the~~
24 ~~jurisdiction of the Nineteenth Judicial District.~~

25 Section 2. R.S. 44:4.1(B)(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

26 §4.1. Exceptions

27 * * *

28 B. The legislature further recognizes that there exist exceptions, exemptions,
29 and limitations to the laws pertaining to public records throughout the revised

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 statutes and codes of this state. Therefore, the following exceptions, exemptions, and
2 limitations are hereby continued in effect by incorporation into this Chapter by
3 citation:

4 * * *

5 (6) R.S. 13:1905, 2593, 3049.2, 3715.3, 3715.4, 3734, 4687, 5108.1, 5304,
6 5366(L)

7 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1011 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

Abstract: Permits jurors to donate their per diem compensation to the formal program of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Present law authorizes a pilot program that allows jurors in the 19th JDC to donate their per diem compensation in whole or in part to an organization that is either formally recognized under Ch.C. Art. 424 for its role in advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system, or specifically designated as Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Present law requires the clerk of court for the 19th JDC to provide each juror an option to donate the per diem compensation to CASA during jury orientation or the juror service process.

Present law requires the clerk of court for the 19th JDC to establish procedures for the collection and timely distribution of donated per diem compensation to the designated organization.

Present law requires that the procedures for the collection and timely distribution of donated per diem compensation to the designated organization include provisions for donor acknowledgment and compliance with financial management standards.

Present law also requires a form to be distributed to each person registered for the jury pool that contains the mission of CASA and the voluntary option to assign fees due to them as a tax-deductible donation to the organization.

Present law provides for the purpose of the program and requires the juror office of the 19th JDC to send a monthly check of individual juror payments to CASA along with the names, addresses, and amounts donated of the individual juror for a mailed tax-deductible receipt.

Present law requires any information provided to CASA by the juror office to remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure under the public records law.

Present law requires that CASA be designated exclusively for the per diem donations during the two-year pilot program.

Proposed law deletes present law that provides for the "pilot" program in the 19th JDC.

Proposed law amends present law to authorize a program in any judicial district court to allow jurors to voluntarily donate per diem compensation to CASA.

Proposed law requires the clerk of court for the judicial district court to provide each juror an option to donate the per diem compensation to CASA during jury orientation or the juror service process.

Proposed law requires the clerk of court for the judicial district court to establish procedures for the collection and timely distribution of donated per diem compensation to CASA.

Proposed law requires the juror office of the judicial district court to send a monthly check of individual juror payments to CASA along with the names, addresses, and amounts donated of the individual juror for a mailed tax-deductible receipt. Provides that such information is exempt from public records.

Proposed law requires donations made to CASA to be utilized exclusively for supporting the mission of CASA.

(Amends R.S. 13:3049.2 and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(6))