

CHAPTER 97-199

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 377

An act relating to juries; amending s. 40.013, F.S.; providing for permanent excusal of certain persons from jury service; amending s. 40.24, F.S., relating to compensation for juror service; authorizing donation of juror compensation to a program specified by a certified guardian ad litem program or to a domestic violence shelter; providing duties of the clerk of court and guidelines with respect to receipt or expenditures of such donated moneys; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 40.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury service.—

(8) A person 70 years of age or older shall be excused from jury service upon request. A person 70 years of age or older may also be permanently excused from jury service upon written request. A person who is permanently excused from jury service may subsequently request, in writing, to be included in future jury lists provided such person meets the qualifications required by this chapter.

Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 40.24, Florida Statutes, to read:

40.24 Compensation and reimbursement policy.—

(8) In circuits that elect to allow jurors to donate their jury service fee upon conclusion of juror service, each juror may irrevocably donate all of the juror's compensation to the 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(3) organization specified by the guardian ad litem program or to a domestic violence shelter as specified annually on a rotating basis by the clerk of court in the circuit for the juror's county of residence. The funds collected may not reduce or offset the amount of compensation that the guardian ad litem program or domestic violence shelter would otherwise receive from the state. The clerk of court shall ensure that all jurors are given written notice at the conclusion of their service that they have the option to so donate their compensation, and that the applicable program specified by the guardian ad litem program or a domestic violence shelter receives all funds donated by the jurors. Any guardian ad litem program receiving donations of juror compensation must expend such moneys on services for children for whom guardians ad litem have been appointed.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 30, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1997.