

By the Committee on Family Law & Children and  
Representatives Bronson, Feeney, Argenziano, Fasano, Lynn,  
Culp and Harrington

1                           A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to juries; amending s. 40.013,  
3           F.S.; providing for permanent excusal of  
4           certain persons from jury service; amending s.  
5           40.24, F.S., relating to compensation for juror  
6           service; authorizing donation of juror  
7           compensation to a program specified by a  
8           certified guardian ad litem program or to a  
9           domestic violence shelter; providing duties of  
10          the clerk of court and guidelines with respect  
11          to receipt or expenditures of such donated  
12          moneys; providing an effective date.

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

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

18           40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury  
19 service.--

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

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

29           40.24 Compensation and reimbursement policy.--

30           (8) In circuits that elect to allow jurors to donate  
31 their jury service fee upon conclusion of juror service, each

1 juror may irrevocably donate all of the juror's compensation  
2 to the 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(3) organization specified by the  
3 certified guardian ad litem program or to a domestic violence  
4 shelter as enumerated by the clerk of court in the circuit for  
5 the juror's county of residence. The funds collected may not  
6 reduce or offset the amount of compensation that the guardian  
7 ad litem program or domestic violence shelter would otherwise  
8 receive from the state. The clerk of court shall ensure that  
9 all jurors are given written notice at the conclusion of their  
10 service that they have the option to so donate their  
11 compensation, and that the applicable program specified by the  
12 guardian ad litem program or a domestic violence shelter  
13 receives all funds donated by the jurors. Any guardian ad  
14 litem program receiving donations of juror compensation must  
15 expend such moneys on services for children for whom guardians  
16 ad litem have been appointed.

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