

A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Amend the Jury Act.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of Jamaica, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Jamaica, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Jury (Amendment) Act, 2026, and shall be read and construed as one with the Jury Act (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”) and all amendments thereto.

Short title
and
construction.

Amendment of subheading of principal Act.	2. The principal Act is amended by deleting the subheading, “Payment of Jurors” immediately before section 35 and substituting therefor the following— <i>“Payment to Jurors and other persons”.</i>
Repeal and replacement of section 35 of principal Act.	3. Section 35 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following— “Payment of persons who attend the jury selection process. 35. A person who is summoned for jury duty and attends the jury selection process in a civil or criminal trial shall be paid such expenses as may be prescribed by the Minister for each day or any part of the day that the person attends court.”.
Repeal and replacement of section 36 of principal Act.	4. Section 36 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following— “Payment of jurors who sit on the jury in a criminal or civil trial. 36. A person who serves as a juror in a criminal or civil trial shall be paid such expenses, as may be prescribed by the Minister for each day or any part of each day that the person attends court to sit on a jury.”.
Repeal of section 37 of principal Act.	5. Section 37 of the principal Act is repealed.
Amendment of section 38 of principal Act.	6. Section 38(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “section 37” and substituting therefor, the words “section 36”.
Amendment of Regulations.	7. The provisions of the regulations specified in the first column of the Schedule are amended in the manner specified in relation to that provision, in the second column of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

(Section 6)

Amendment of Regulations

Provision	Amendment
The Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015	
Renaming of Regulations and construction	The "Jury (Jurors Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015" are renamed "Jury (Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulation, 2015" and reference in any enactment to "Jury (Jurors Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015" shall be construed as a reference to "Jury (Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015"
Regulation 1	Delete the words "Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015" and substitute therefor, the words "Jury (Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015".
Regulation 2	Repeal the regulation and replace by the following— “2.—(1) A person who is summoned for jury duty and attends the jury selection process for a civil trial shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the jury selection process lasts, the sum of two thousand dollars to cover expenses incurred for— (a) participating in the jury selection process; and (b) travelling to and from the place to which the person is summoned. (2) Each person who serves as a juror in a civil trial, shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the trial lasts,

Provision	Amendment
	the sum of six thousand dollars to cover expenses incurred for—
	(a) sitting on the jury; and (b) travelling to and from the place from which the person is summoned.
The Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015	
Renaming of Regulations and construction	The “Jury (Jurors Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015” are renamed “Jury (Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulation, 2015” and reference in any enactment to “Jury (Jurors Expenses in Criminal Cases Regulations, 2015” shall be construed as a reference to “Jury (Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015”
Regulation 1	Delete the words “Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015” and substitute therefor, the words “Jury (Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015”.
Regulation 2	Repeal the regulation and replace by the following— “2.—(1) A person who is summoned for jury duty and attends the jury selection process for a criminal trial shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the jury selection process lasts, the sum of two thousand dollars to cover expenses incurred for— (a) participating in the jury selection process; and

Provision
—Amendment
—

- (b) travelling to and from the place to which the person is summoned.

(2) Each person who serves as a juror in a criminal trial, shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the trial lasts, the sum of six thousand dollars to cover expenses incurred for—

- (a) sitting on the jury; and
- (b) travelling to and from the place from which the person is summoned.”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 3rd day of February, 2026.

JULIET HOLNESS

Speaker.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Jury Act governs the process for trial by jury, by, among other things, providing for the summoning of persons for jury duty and selection, as well as payment for services rendered by persons during the trial.

This Bill seeks to amend the Act and the Regulations under the Act to—

- (a) increase the sum paid to jurors who serve on the jury in a civil trial or a criminal trial; and
- (b) provide for the payment of persons who are summoned to court to participate in the jury selection process.

DELROY CHUCK

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

ABILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Amend the Jury Act.

As passed in the Honourable House of Representatives.

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SECTION 1A OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO REPEAL AND REPLACE

1A. In this Act, references to “jury list” are references to a list as certified pursuant to section 13(1).

SECTION 2 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO AMEND

2.—(1) Subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4), any person who resides in Jamaica and has attained the age of eighteen years but is under the age of seventy years, is qualified and liable to serve on juries if—

- (a) the person’s name is on any current official list of electors for elections to the House of Representatives; or
- (b) the person is registered under section 17D of the Revenue Administration Act.

...

...

...

(5) Save as provided by or pursuant to this section and subject to section 18, no person qualified to serve shall be exempt from jury service.

SUBHEADING TO SECTION 35 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT
WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND

Payment of Jurors

SECTIONS 35 AND 36 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO REPEAL AND REPLACE

35.—(1) In a civil trial, each person who serves as a juror—

- (a) shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the trial lasts, such sum as the Minister may, by regulations prescribe; and
- (b) shall be entitled to be paid, in respect of his travelling to and from the place to which he is summoned, such sum as the Minister may, by regulations published in the *Gazette*, prescribe.

(2) [*Deleted by Act 8 of 1999.*]

36.—(1) In all civil cases, the payments allowed as aforesaid, shall be provided by the party on whose application the jury has been obtained, and paid to the Clerk of the Court on each day before the case proceeds, and shall be paid by him to each juror on the last day for which his attendance is required.

(2) In all civil cases, the amount so paid shall be costs in the cause.

SECTION 37 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO REPEAL AND REPLACE

37.—(1) In all criminal cases, each person who serves as a juror—

- (a) shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the trial lasts, such sum as the Minister may, by regulations prescribe; and
- (b) shall be entitled to be paid, in respect of his travelling to and from the place to which he is summoned, such sum as the Minister may, by regulations published in the *Gazette*, prescribe.

(2) [*Deleted by Act 8 of 1999.*]

SECTION 38 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO AMEND

38.—(1) Where the taxing officer is satisfied that by reason of—

- (a) the distance between the home of a juror and the place to which he is summoned; or
- (b) the state of health of a juror; or
- (c) the means of communication between the home of a juror and the place to which he is summoned; or
- (d) the necessity for a juror to attend at Court upon more than one day,

a juror in any criminal cause was necessarily absent from his home for more than one day by reason of his service as a juror, the taxing officer may allow, in addition to any sum payable to such juror under section 37, such further sum as he is satisfied represents any reasonable expenditure actually incurred by the juror for lodging and necessary subsistence during the period between his departure from his home to attend Court and his return to his home after so attending Court.

SUBHEADING AFTER SECTION 42 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT
WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND

42. All penalties recovered under this Act shall be paid over to the Accountant-General of the Island for the use of the Consolidated Fund.

Miscellaneous

REGULATIONS 1 AND 2 OF THE JURY (JURORS' EXPENSES IN CIVIL
CASES) REGULATIONS, 2015 WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND

THE JURY (JURORS' EXPENSES IN CRIMINAL CASES)
REGULATIONS, 2015

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Minister by section (52(b) of the Jury Act and of every other power hereunto enabling, the following Regulations are hereby made:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Civil Cases) Regulations, 2015.

2. In all civil cases, every person who serves as a juror in a civil trial, shall be paid for each day that the trial lasts, the sum of two thousand dollars, in respect of—

- (a) a stipend for attending on the jury; and
- (b) the expense of travelling to and from the place to which the person is summoned,

which sum shall apply in the stead of any sum currently payable as an allowance in respect of any one or both of the matters specified at paragraphs (a) and (b).

REGULATIONS 1 AND 2 OF THE JURY (JURORS' EXPENSES
IN CRIMINAL CASES) REGULATIONS, 2015 WHICH IT IS
PROPOSED TO AMEND

THE JURY (JURORS' EXPENSES IN CRIMINAL CASES)
REGULATIONS, 2015

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Minister by section 52(b) of the Jury Act and of every other power hereunto enabling, the following Regulations are hereby made:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Jury (Jurors' Expenses in Criminal Cases) Regulations, 2015.

In all criminal cases, every person who serves as a juror in a criminal trial, shall be paid for each day or part of a day that the trial lasts, the sum of two thousand dollars, in respect of—

- (a) a stipend for attending on the jury; and
- (b) the expense of travelling to and from the place to which the person is summoned,

which sum shall apply in the stead of any sum currently payable as an allowance in respect of any one or both of the matters specified at paragraphs (a) and (b).